

Irish anger as pub bombers lose appeals

Police are cleared of catalogue of brutality

By Stewart Tendler, Richard Ford, John Cooney and Andrew Morgan

Six Irishmen convicted for the Birmingham public house bombings were sent back to prison last night by the Court of Appeal amid mounting anger on both sides of the Irish Sea at the refusal of the judges to free them after new evidence.

At the end of the longest criminal appeal in British legal history — it lasted five weeks — the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, told the six: "The longer the hearing has gone on the more this

court has been convinced the jury was correct".

In a four-hour judgement the court described key witnesses for the appellants as liars, vindicated the forensic evidence and cleared West Midlands police of a catalogue of alleged brutality.

Unless there is fresh evidence or successful legal action the men, convicted for

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bombings which killed 21 and injured more than 160 people in November 1974, will not be free before the middle of the next decade on parole.

The appeal cost £1 million and was the second mounted for the men since their conviction in 1975.

Last night, the judgement was criticized by the Republic of Ireland, which was still unhappy at the news of the Stalker report over allegations of a shoot-to-kill policy by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Lawyers for the six said as the court rose they would seek leave to go to the Law Lords on a point of law. Campaigners promised to go on fighting.

Security forces were put on alert last night at the prospect that the verdict in London could prompt some form of retaliation on behalf of the men.

A statement issued in Dublin said that the judgement was "a vindication of the British position" which had been consistently expressed by the British Government and conveyed to the British authorities that there might have been a miscarriage of justice in the case.

"This is a concern which is shared right across the political and legal spectrum in both Ireland and Britain", the statement added.

The Irish Government said that it would withhold further comment pending an appeal to the House of Lords by the Birmingham six. Next week there is a meeting of the Anglo-Irish conference at which the case is certain to be raised. It will cast a cloud over attempts by both sides to improve security co-operation.

Mr Gerry Collins, the Irish Justice Minister, called on Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, to show clemency towards the six.

"I am amazed and very saddened at the rejection of the appeal. A very wide volume of opinion believes these people are innocent."

Mr Alan Dukes, the main opposition leader said: "It is

with a sense of disappointment that I have heard of the result. I was impressed with the witnesses for the six."

In London after the decision, Mr Peter Barry, the Opposition Fine Gael spokesman on foreign affairs, said that great disappointment would be felt in the Republic.

However, he said he did not believe the ruling would have a significant effect on the Anglo-Irish agreement which he ratified last year with Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

"The vast majority of people in the Irish Republic think that these men are not guilty of the crimes. After this and events of the week, it will take a great deal of work and generosity between the two governments to keep things on an even keel."

Bishop Edward Daly, Bishop of Derry and a witness, quaking with anger, added: "I have been close to violence for 20 years and I have known people involved and those not. I have as good an idea as those judges on the bench about involvement and these men are innocent."

There was a warning the Provisional IRA would be the gainers from the Court of Appeal decision which would wipe out the setback they suffered after the Enniskillen bomb attack on Remembrance Sunday.

Mr Seamus Mallon, the deputy leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said: "We are happy to have seized this weaponry, taken it out of circulation and saved lives."

It is the fifth find since the Irish Government launched a nationwide search for IRA arms last November after the seizure of 150 tonnes of arms and ammunition on board the ship Eksund, intercepted by the French authorities off Brest.

The British and Irish Governments believe that four shipments of arms from Libya for the IRA landed in Ireland in 1985 and 1986.

Mr Gerry Collins, the Irish Justice Minister, called for clemency for convicted six. Party, issued a warning that the terrorists would benefit.

Mr Mallon said the decision not to prosecute RUC officers involved in an alleged shoot-to-kill policy and the court judgement would be a boost for the Provos.

"It has been Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's day all rolled into one for the Provos. In the words of an Irish song it is 'Fare you well, Enniskillen out for the Provos'."

Mr Mallon, SDLP MP for Newry Armagh and an observer during the hearings, Continued on page 22, col 2

IRA arms cache discovered on beach



Irish police working round one of the two oil storage tanks, left, in which they found IRA arms, ammunition and explosives. A Garda detective, right, takes some of the guns from remote Five Fingers Beach, near Malin Head in the Republic.

Explosives and guns in haul

By John Cooney

An Irish Republican Army arms and ammunition dump has been discovered on a remote beach in Co Donegal. The find was significant, the Garda said.

The haul contained 100 AK47 Kalashnikov rifles, five machine guns and 50,000 rounds of ammunition. There was also 100lbs of explosives, similar to that used in the IRA's new armour-piercing grenades.

The cache was in two oil tanks at Five Fingers Beach, near Malin Head. Its discovery is regarded as a big blow to the operations of the London-derry section of the IRA.

Chief Supt Eugene O'Shea, who headed the Garda operation, said: "We are happy to have seized this weaponry, taken it out of circulation and saved lives."

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Thatcher confirms her pledge on hospital fees

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday raised confusion over the scope of the National Health Service review by renewing her general election pledge that hospital charges for food and accommodation would not be introduced in the lifetime of the present Parliament.

Despite statements on her behalf earlier in the week that "everything was on the table" and that past pledges would be reassessed, she told the Commons: "The statements made during the general election stand. I have said so before and said so again. They stand for the lifetime of this Parliament."

"By the time the next Parliament comes, we shall have completed the internal review. We shall make our promises then which will stand for the following Parliament."

Mrs Thatcher repeated her pledge under pressure from Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader. Mr Kinnock had demanded: "Are you saying that there is no possibility in this Parliament of direct or indirect charges for visits to the doctor, for hospital visits, for family planning services or anything else?"

Mrs Thatcher, it was explained later, was specifically referring to the promise made towards the end of the election campaign by Mr Norman Fowler, then Secretary of State for Social Services, that there would be no bed and boarding charges for patients in health service hospitals during the lifetime of this Parliament.

Whitehall sources also denied that there was any contradiction between Mrs Thatcher's statement yesterday and the position outlined earlier in the week.

It was emphasized that "hotel" charges would indeed be considered during the review. To that extent, everything was on the table. However, if the review, expected to report before the end of the year, found that such charges were desirable, they would not be implemented until after the next general election.

Mrs Thatcher also renewed her condemnation in the Commons of industrial action planned by members of the health unions Nupse and Cosh.

"Strike action in the health service harms patients and puts heavier burdens on those, with higher professional standards, who refuse to strike," she said.

Last night there was delight in the Labour camp at what it saw as its biggest victory since the election. "The second U-turn in a week means that she is travelling in a circle with the inevitable results", Mr Kinnock said.

He accused Downing Street of having given "utterly misleading" briefings earlier.

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in the week which had been "completely contradicted" by Mrs Thatcher. "She has stood completely on her head."

He said that in response to his question, Mrs Thatcher had not only reaffirmed her election promise not to introduce "hotel" charges, but had also agreed with him that there would be no direct or indirect charges for visits to hospitals, doctors or family planning services.

The last point was immediately denied by Whitehall sources, who said Mr Kinnock had tried to widen the pledge.

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referring to the promise made towards the end of the election campaign by Mr Norman Fowler, then Secretary of State for Social Services, that there would be no bed and boarding charges for patients in health service hospitals during the lifetime of this Parliament.

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NEXT WEEK

Portfolio

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● Accumulator offers two chances to win each day: the £4,000 prize, or the contents of the Accumulator fund. That jackpot will be won by a reader with a number which is higher than the daily total.

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● On Saturdays, the weekly £8,000 competition continues, and if that is not claimed it too passes into the Accumulator fund.

● There will no longer be a daily game on Saturdays but that £4,000 will be added to the Accumulator fund every week.

● Your existing gold card is all you need to play Portfolio Accumulator; extra cards are available in the current issue of Elle and in The Sunday Times Magazine at the weekend

Surprised it wasn't by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

DIANA PLAYS RACHMANINOV

Royal couple strike the right note.....Page 10

IN PART 2

Second term

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, aged 61, has been appointed for a second five-year term as Governor of the Bank of England.....Page 23

Arco switch

Atlantic Richfield, the US company selling its Britoil stake, switched to buying shares in Tricentrol, the target of a new increased offer from Elf.....Page 23

Piggott licence

The Jockey Club has granted Lester Piggott's wife Susan a licence to train in her own right from February 1 Page 38

Portfolio

● The £4,000 prize in yesterday's Times Portfolio Gold competition was won by a reader from north London. Details, page 3.
● Portfolio list, page 29.

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Times' Old Masters highlight RA year

By Andrew Billen

An exhibition of 50 Old Masters presented by The Times will be the highlight of a year of exhibitions announced by the Royal Academy of Arts yesterday.

Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza's private collection was described by the academy yesterday as the greatest private collection of Old Masters in the world beside the Queen's.

The three-month exhibition, due to open on March 18, was arranged on the initiative of The Times and is being jointly presented with the academy.

Mr Richard Luce, the Arts Minister, said last night: "It is just the kind of partnership between the arts and commerce that the Government is seeking to encourage."

The paintings include Holbein's portrait of Henry VIII, Fra Bartolommeo's "Nativity with John the Baptist" and "Fisherman Playing the Violin" by Frans Hals.

Mr Charles Wilson, editor of The Times, said: "Our joint initiative with the Royal Academy in bringing this magnificent collection to the academy recognizes the importance that The Times attaches to the arts."

Syrians swoop on kidnap hideouts

From A Correspondent, Beirut

Syrian troops launched a man-hunt yesterday for the kidnapped West German, Herr Ralph Schray, aged 30.

They stormed two sites of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah group, believed to be behind his abduction, which is being seen as an attempt to force Bonn to release two Shia Muslim Lebanese suspects.

Militia and security sources said dozens of troops attacked the hideouts of Hezbollah in Zaq al-Bat and Khadak al-Shamk areas near the green-line battlefield that slices Beirut into Christian and Muslim sectors.

The sources said the search

in the two districts was launched after witnesses in the area said they saw Herr Schray being moved on Wednesday from one car to the boot of another.

The witnesses said he had apparently been beaten by his kidnappers. His spectacles were broken and his face was bloodstained, they added.

His Lebanese wife, Rana, appealed yesterday to the captors to release her husband, who was born and lived all his life in Lebanon. "He does not speak German and he is more of a Lebanese than me," she said.

Continued on page 22, col 5

Atom spy Fuchs dies

Klaus Fuchs, the spy who helped the Soviet Union become a nuclear power, died in East Germany yesterday, aged 76 (Andrew McEwen writes).

The East German news agency, which announced his

death, failed to mention that he served nine years in prison in Britain for passing on secrets to Moscow learnt while helping to develop the atomic bomb in the West.

Obituary, page 16

Trade gap 'worst for 13 years'

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

Britain's balance of payments turned in its worst performance for 13 years last year, as buoyant spending in the economy sucked in imports.

The current account was in deficit by £582 million last month, and by £2.69 billion for last year as a whole. In 1986 there was a £944 million deficit, and in 1985 a £2.92 billion surplus.

The volume of imports, up 11 per cent in the 12 months to the final quarter of last year, easily outstripped the 4.5 per cent rise in exports.

If the deterioration continues, the Chancellor may yet have to put the brake on the economy with higher interest rates and a cautious Budget.

But the financial markets shrugged off such worries yesterday. The pound held steady at \$1.7815 against the dollar.

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Leading article, page 15

MPs plan filibuster to beat Alton abortion Bill

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

Opponents of Mr David Alton's Bill to reduce the legal time limit for abortions have hit on a parliamentary ruse that could severely delay its passage and possibly kill it.

An unofficial cross-party alliance has secretly been planning the demise of the Liberal's proposed legislation to bring down to 18 weeks the upper limit for abortions, which was passed by a 45-vote majority on its second reading in the Commons last Friday.

MPs who oppose Mr Alton are to spin out discussion on the three small Bills which precede his own on the

Private Members' list, and the committee on one of them has been "packed" with abortion Bill critics.

Mr Alton's Bill is now waiting to go into its Commons committee stage. He thought he might face a delay of three or four weeks before the Bill enters Standing Committee C, the only Commons committee specifically reserved for Private Members' legislation. It meets only once a week — and his opponents are planning to engineer a hold-up lasting months.

Three hitherto uncontested Bills ahead of Mr Alton's in the queue have suddenly taken on a new significance. His Bill cannot go into committee

until the Scotch Whisky Bill, which tightens the definition of the spirit, the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Bill, which raises the penalties for offences relating to animal fights, and the Licensing (Retail Sales) Bill, which amends the definition of "sale by retail" have been dealt with.

Under normal circumstances, they would each have been handled in a single session. That will not now happen. MPs serving on those Bills who also oppose Mr Alton are expected to find all kinds of issues on which to table amendments.

The sponsor of the licensing Bill is Mr Andrew Mackay, Conservative

MP for Berkshire East, who made a passionate, well-acclaimed speech opposing the abortion Bill.

This week, he selected a committee for his own Bill which includes several opponents of Mr Alton, including Mr Peter Thurnham, Mr Eric Forth, Mr Robin Squire and Mr Dafydd Wigley.

When the licensing Bill is eventually reached, progress will not be fast, Mr Wigley, Plaid Cymru MP for Carmarthen, said last night: "My interest in this Bill has increased considerably since last Friday. I am now being made aware of a number of areas where amendments will have to be explored in some depth."

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Move to speed school reforms

The Government brought down the guillotine on the Education Reform Bill yesterday to limit Commons discussion and speed its progress to the Lords.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said there had never been a less justifiable act of gagging against any education legislation brought before the Commons. Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the Commons, responded that the 147-clause Bill was making slow progress in committee and promised that the Government would be "generous" in allocating time for further debate.

A motion setting a timetable for the committee's remaining examination will be put forward on Monday. The aim is to have the Bill out of committee by early March.

Suicide theory Alert for escaper

A scientist who went missing 11 days ago is believed to have killed himself after a suicide note and his car were found at Cornwall yesterday.

A search of dense woodland and rocky coast at Boscastle for the body of Mr Russell Smith, aged 23, of Colehill Post Office, near Farnington, Oxfordshire, will resume today.

Two men and a woman were being questioned by police after Williams and Trinder had escaped from Horfield Prison in Bristol. The Home Office started an inquiry into the escape, the first in 20 years at the prison.

Lawyers' code agreed

A draft code enabling solicitors to form companies and to make arrangements with building societies and others for work to be introduced was yesterday agreed in principle by the Law Society council.

The council agreed that solicitors should be allowed to incorporate with limited or unlimited liability, not just practise in partnership as now. Solicitors should be allowed to hive off, as separate companies, non-legal business.

A strategy to promote property sales by solicitors was endorsed, with the rider that a code of conduct be drawn up.

Research Academy jobs boost cash plan

Europe's biggest science research park, occupying nearly 400 acres, is to be built at Mangotsfield, Bristol.

Planning permission for the park, which will cost £250 million to develop and will eventually create 9,000 jobs, was granted yesterday.

Kingswood and Northwood, the two district councils involved, claim international companies are queuing up for sites at the development, adjacent to the M4, to be called Emersons Green. It will include 3,100 new homes, shops, a library, community centre, and four primary schools.

Referendum quashed

Guernsey's parliament, the States of Deliberation, has voted by 36 to 12 against holding the island's first referendum.

Promoted by a *requête* — a private members' Bill — the seven proposers wanted a referendum on whether the 12 Councillors members of the 58-seat parliament should be elected by universal suffrage, rather than electoral college.

Thirty-three People's Deputies are elected by universal suffrage, while another 10 members are appointed to parliament by parish councils.

Owenites banned

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Hopes of an amicable SDP conference in Sheffield this weekend were last night shattered when Dr David Owen's Campaign for Social Democracy was told it would not be allowed to use the conference hall for a rally on Saturday.

The decision was taken by Mr Dick Newby, the party's pro-merger general secretary, who said he wanted to preserve the neutrality of the hall. Members of the anti-merger lobby said they would simply refuse to leave the hall at the end of the proceedings.

The Campaign had paid the £50 booking fee and had a signed invoice from the SDP. The Campaign had consulted solicitors and was insisting the contract be honoured.

It regards the rally, which will discuss how best the SDP could continue, as the most important event of the weekend. It was too late to find an alternative venue.

Left wingers accused of driving nurses to strike

By Howard Foster and Ruth Gledhill

With less than a week to go before the first large-scale protest by the health service unions, fears are growing that national leaders will find it difficult to control activists in local branches who are calling for extreme action.

Mr Trevor Clay, general secretary of the moderate Royal College of Nursing, has complained of manipulation by "extreme left wingers" within the two unions: the Confederation of Health Service Employees and the National Union of Public Employees.

According to Mr Clay, nurses in his union have been confused into voting to strike when they assumed that they had been asked merely to vote to hold a ballot on a strike. He said that the activities of unrepresentative minorities from outside nursing were prejudicing the issue by picketing meetings called with little or no notice.

Mr David Picking, national

Colts official with responsibility for nurses and midwives, said that attempts to curb grassroots desire for disruptive measures may be unsuccessful. "If there is not some sort of resolution of the problem the union cannot guarantee the action the nurses are likely to take", he said.

"Although the possibility that staff might take an extreme course cannot be condoned, feelings are running extremely high."

"Nurses groups have sprung up within branches and this is a reflection of the feeling within the health service at the moment. All we ask is that if they do insist on taking their own action, they conform to the terms of the 1984 Trades Union Act and hold a ballot."

A key group of radical nurses in London is forming a new London-wide group to co-ordinate future action and protests. The London Nurses Liaison, set up at a joint meeting on January 7 of the London Radical Nurses Group, a far left

discussion group, and London Health Emergency (LHE), a left-wing health watchdog, is drawing its members from activists in all three health service unions.

In spite of the radical left-wing credentials of Mr John Lister, information officer for LHE and contact point for London Nurses Liaison, the groups deny any Trotskyist aims and claim to present an accurate picture of grassroots opinion. "I would personally deny any involvement in any attempt to influence what is a grassroots movement", Mr Lister said.

Nurses who have been involved in action and trade union representatives will be invited to the first official meeting of the group soon for a "discussion about how this whole campaign should proceed".

Mr Timothy Brown, a psychiatric nurse on the steering committee of London Nurses Liaison, said: "The aim of the group is to provide a network for nurses across London so that there is a forum for them to

talk to each other about what is happening so that they are better able to co-ordinate protests against cuts".

Mr Brown, a member of Colts, said 50 nurses attended the meeting at LHE on January 7. Since then, numbers have trebled. "Things are moving incredibly quickly. Current action is not being driven by radical people. There is no sense in which there is a small Trotskyist group from Socialist Worker whipping up strikes. Ordinary grassroots nurses who have never opened a copy of Socialist Worker in their lives are getting really angry."

Miss Myra Garrett, of the Tower Hamlets health campaign, one of the first to call for a strike ballot for February 3, said that nurses were more concerned about the quality of service they can provide than about their salaries.

The LHE, which used to receive a grant from the old Greater London Council, is now funded by the health unions and left-wing London boroughs, including Islington,

Hackney, Camden and Brent.

Mr Lister, aged 38, an Oxford graduate, was a member of the Workers Socialist League founded by Mr Alan Thornett, the Trotskyite leader involved in strikes at British Leyland in the 1970s. Mr Lister's progress through a number of Trotskyite organizations mirrors closely the path trodden by Mr Thornett.

In 1985, Mr Lister joined Mr Thornett in a new Trotskyite formation calling itself the Socialist Group. Mr Lister began to write for the group's spurious publication, *Socialist Viewpoint*. Last year, *Socialist Viewpoint* merged with an offshoot of the Socialist League and became *Socialist Outlook*. In it Mr Lister wrote last month that Conservative ministers had engineered a financial crisis to undermine confidence in the health service.

Mr Lister said last night that the left wing was not attempting to prompt nurses to take industrial action. "The feelings are strong and they are coming from branch level",

148 governments pledge to eradicate virus

Global war declared against Aids

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Health ministers from 148 countries pledged yesterday to press their governments to take urgent action on Aids, which they described as "a serious threat to humanity".

The three-day world summit sponsored jointly by the British Government and the World Health Organization ended with all the delegates agreeing to what will become known as the London Declaration on Aids.

Mr Antony Newton, the Minister for Health, said: "The sense of purpose shown here gives real cause for some optimism. This has been an excellent example of international co-operation."

However, although the conference provided a unique international exchange of information on Aids it also disclosed deep differences of policy on some controversial issues.

The compulsory blood testing of some categories of foreign visitors to countries such as China, the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, and other restrictions on travellers, remained firmly in place in spite of criticisms of them by the World Health Organization.

The declaration said: "We emphasize the need in Aids prevention programmes to protect human rights and human dignity. Discrimination against and stigmatization of infected people and people with Aids undermine public health and must be avoided."

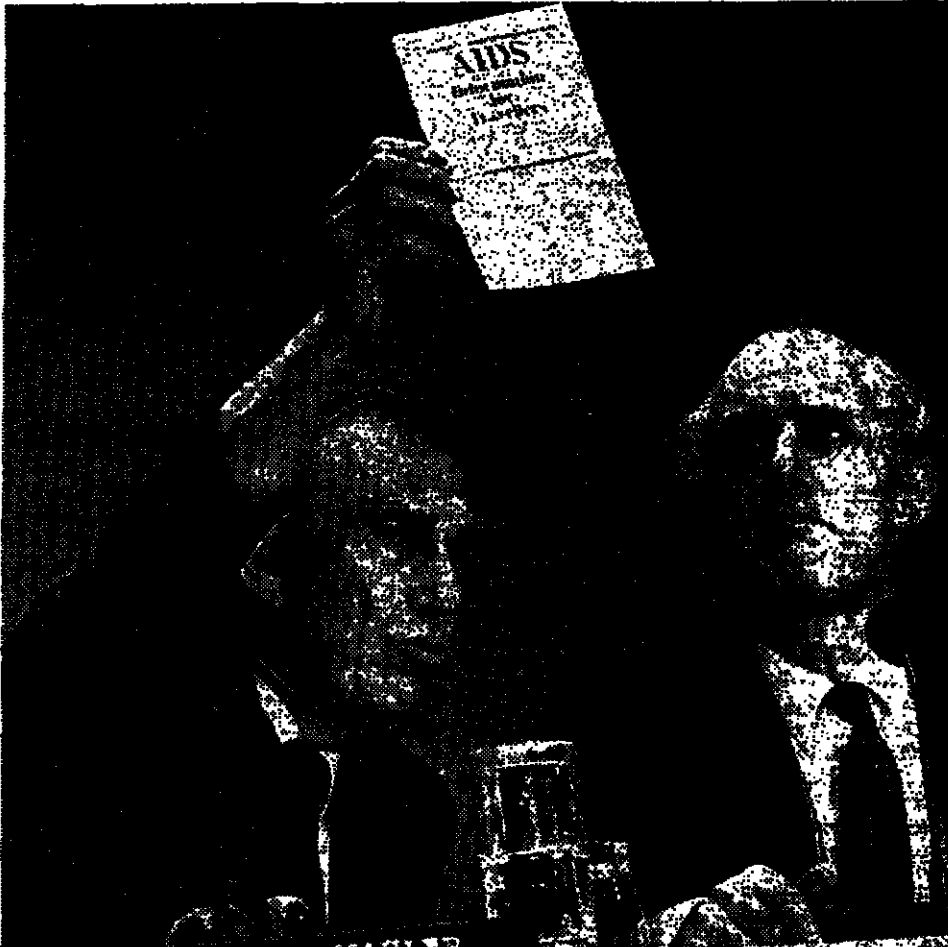
It also stated: "We recognize that in the absence of a vaccine or cure for Aids the single most important component of national Aids programmes is information and education, because transmission can be prevented through informed and responsible behaviour."

"We are convinced that by promoting responsible behaviour and through international co-operation we can and will begin now to slow the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)."

Such optimism was tempered by a warning at the beginning of the summit that hundreds of millions of people were vulnerable to infection and that the global epidemic would probably threaten future generations far into the next century.

According to estimates by the organization, up to 10 million people are affected, and the estimated 150,000 dead or dying from Aids is likely to double by the end of this year.

Dr Halften Mahler, direc-



Dr Halften Mahler (left), director-general of the WHO, and Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Health, at the Aids conference in London yesterday (Photograph: Bill Wainman)

Syringes alert for children

Children who played darts in a school playground with hypodermic needles used to treat an Aids patient at an adjoining hospital were under medical surveillance last night.

Hospital staff, wearing protective gloves and boots, retrieved the potentially lethal, used equipment from Moston Brook High School, Manchester, after a dozen children aged between 11 and 12 were found throwing needles on the playground.

Security measures are under urgent review at Mossall Hospital.

The youngsters found syringes, used swabs and a plastic bag full of blood in a flower container placed in this manner with a skull and crossbones.

The hospital management has confirmed that the containers included items used to treat an HIV positive patient.

None of the children is thought to be infected.

Hurd denies leak over secrets Bill

By Robin Oakley and David Walker

Report and has been common ground since 1972.

A White Paper would be published in June, he said.

Mr Shepherd, in another radio programme, gave Mr Hurd's proposals his blessing. "He could have supported a lot of my Bill on the basis of what he has said", Mr Shepherd said.

Mr Hurd's plan to divide official information into three classes, from two of which the criminal sanctions contained in the Official Secrets Act would be withdrawn, left Mr John Ward, general secretary of the First Division Association, representing senior Civil Servants, "absolutely delighted".

The chorus of welcome for Mr Hurd did not include Mr Des Wilson, chairman of the Campaign for Freedom of Information and former president of the Liberal Party. He criticized the Home Secretary for "trailing partial proposals as a liberalization of the law in circumstances where he cannot be challenged".

What Mr Hurd was offering was the very minimum which anyone proposing to reform official secrecy could have offered, Mr Wilson said.

Parliament, page 4

Short and Speelman close to chess victory

By Raymond Keene, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada

The two British grandmasters, Nigel Short and John Speelman, moved further last night towards their goal of being the first British chess players to qualify for the quarter final of the world championship.

Speelman entered ferocious complications against his opponent, the former United States champion Yasser Seirawan, who lost on time forfeit.

Short and Speelman, with now impressive leads of 2½ points to ½ against their respective opponents, need just one win to ensure qualification for the quarter finals.

Other results from Wednesday night's third round were: Spraggett drew with Sokolov; Hjartarson drew with Korchnoi; Salov drew with Timman; Portisch beat Vaganian; Yusupov beat Eliev.

Scores after the third round games: Short, 2½; Sax (Hungary), ½; Speelman, 2½; Seirawan (US), ½; Yusupov (USSR), 2½; Eliev (USSR), ½; Portisch (Hungary), 2; Vaganian (USSR), 1; Hjartarson (Iceland), 2; Korchnoi (Switzerland), 1; Sokolov (USSR), 2; Spraggett (Canada), 1; Timman (Holland), 1½; Salov (USSR), 1½.

Short-Sax

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Game drawn.

Seirawan

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

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Two million people feel violent after TV crime shows

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Children are being taught how to watch television in an attempt to stop them being badly influenced or "desensitized" by screen violence, it was disclosed yesterday.

Classes of youngsters in 20 selected primary and secondary schools throughout England are being put through a systematic and organized course of "brainwashing" tuition to try to make them differentiate between fact and fantasy, so they are not tempted to mimic the violence they see on television.

The special lessons form part of research commissioned by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which yesterday published the most comprehensive study yet into what viewers think about violence on television.

The report, completed before the Hungerford massacre, shows that two million viewers - 6 per cent of the total audience - said they sometimes feel "quite violent" after watching crime programmes.

It also highlights the concern felt by parents about the potential harm television violence may have on young minds. Two in three people believe children's contact with televised violence should be delayed as long as possible.

Nine out of ten viewers felt that parents should take greater care over the programmes their children watch and a further 80 per cent believe that parents seldom bother to control what their youngsters watch.

Children fail to understand that screen violence is not real, according to a majority of adults, and 60 per cent believe that violent items give children the impression that murder is a "day-to-day affair".

Mr John Whitney, director general of the IBA, says: "We are concerned that the portrayal of violence on television may, over a period of time, have a desensitizing or trivializing effect, particularly on children."

Two university psychologists and a team of researchers have been hired by the IBA to go into schools to investigate the desensitizing effect of television and how it can be offset with special lessons. The research will not be completed until 1989.

Dr Barrie Gunter, head of research at the IBA, explained: "You begin by taking a measurement of how aggressive children are in their attitudes and disposition. Then you put them through this course of tuition, and follow-up measurements are taken to see whether their attitudes are changed."

He said last night that if the "re-sensitization" lessons proved successful, he would like to see them included in a wider based course on television which could be taught in schools throughout Britain.

In a separate inquiry the IBA is looking more closely at the 6 per cent of people who admit to sometimes feeling violent after watching crime programmes to see if they then commit violent acts.

"It is important not to ignore the possibility that there may be others who acknowledge violent feelings without having the ability to restrain themselves if circumstances on occasion provide the opportunity or provocation," the report says.

The IBA report is based on a series of nationwide polls over the past two decades and included regular interviews with a representative audience panel of 3,000 people.

Violence on Television: What the viewers think (John Libbey and Co, 80/84, Broadway, London, SW8 1SF, £9.50p).

£1m for Mrs Simpson bracelet

Two bracelets worn by the Duchess of Windsor are among the highlights at the International Silver and Jewellery fair opening at the Dorchester, London, today.

The first, fashioned in emeralds and diamonds, is priced at £1 million by Garrard. It was given to Mrs Simpson in 1935, before her love affair with the Prince of Wales became a scandal.

The second, more visually dramatic and possibly more poignant, was designed by Cartier in 1940 and is on sale at Silver for £35,000. The inscription on the chunky bracelet reads: "For a happier New Year".

Both bracelets return to the market after being auctioned at Sotheby's Geneva last year.

The vetting committee worked its way around the fair yesterday, inspecting goods for quality. Beyond refuse was a magnificent Queen Anne Britannia silver wine cistern and matching fountain, once owned by the Marquess of Linlithgow, at the stand of Axel Veroot, the Antwerp dealer, and a French Louis XVI jug, by Chert, on sale for £450,000 at Koopman.

The most expensive piece of English arts and crafts jewellery ever offered, a peacock brooch in silver and enamel, by Charles Robert Ashbee, priced at £15,000, was at the Jesse and Laski stand.

Elsewhere, auction houses reported strong prices. Christie's achieved a record for Antoine-Louis Barye with the sale of a bronze group sculpture of Roger and Angelica borne by the Hippogriff. It illustrates the moment in Ariosto's poem, Orlando Furioso, when the former saves the latter on his horse-like steed.

Estimated at £50,000 to £80,000, it fetched £71,500. Other high prices included £44,000 for a pair of nineteenth-century marble figures by Pasquale Romanelli, the Florentine sculptor, estimated at £20,000 to £30,000.

The biggest auction of pi-



SALEROOM
By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

anos at Phillips was its most successful when more than 80 were sold for £108,000. Top lot was an extraordinary cross between a piano and a harp, called a euphonicon, invented by John Steward and manufactured by Frederick Beale and Co, of London, in 1841. It sold for £3,000.

Lawrence, of Crewkerne, Somerset, was reassured by the strength of the middle market at its sale of English and Continental furniture. Mr Richard Gold, of the auction house, said yesterday: "Prices

were solid and strong. One important dealer said he had misjudged them by 60 per cent." Top lot was a George I chest of drawers, which fetched £11,800.

Sotheby's reported a healthy sale of Chinese export porcelain from New York on Wednesday evening, with a total of \$1.6 million (£864,000) raised and only 6 per cent unsold.

American private collectors were active, buying the six top lots. They spent \$132,000

The emerald and diamond bracelet, which belonged to the Duchess of Windsor.

(£73,333) on an armchair charger or plate, commissioned by the Okeover family in about 1743 and lavishly decorated with the family's arms. It was estimated at up to \$85,000.

A "Hong" punch bowl, of about 1785, decorated with a continuous scene of the bustling Pearl riverfront at Canton, quadrupled its estimate at \$90,200 (£50,111).

The sale was encouraging as every top lot has been sold through Sotheby's or Christie's in the past 10 years. The market remains strong, in spite of accelerating turnover.

Portfolio Gold - New-look flat for winner

A refurbished flat is in store for Mr Philip Thomas, a retired engineer, who won the £4,000 Portfolio Gold prize yesterday.

Mr Thomas, aged 71, said: "I am a bachelor so I never paid much attention to the way my flat looked. I would add little odds and ends, but now I can really do a thorough job."

Mr Thomas, of Horssey Lane Gardens, north London, who enjoys photography and is a regular reader of *The Times*, said: "I had to check the numbers five times before I could believe that I had won."

"I am usually an unlucky person."

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to: Portfolio Gold, *The Times*, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Suicide case

George Beecham, aged 63, of Sherwood, Nottingham, was sent by Huntingdon magistrates for trial yesterday on charges of aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the suicide last month of his daughter, Mrs Lesley Platt, aged 35, a multiple sclerosis sufferer.

Bidder gone

Mr Bill Savin, who mistakenly bid £1.6 million at an auction for 10 terraced houses in Bristol last year, faces a bill for damages worth "several hundred thousand pounds", lawyers for the seller said yesterday. However, Mr Savin, aged 55, has not been seen since the judgement.

Libel award

Pat Booth, a former model, who nine months ago received undisclosed damages in settlement of a High Court libel action against the *Daily Mail*, which suggested she was not loyal to her husband, Dr Garth Wood, yesterday won a substantial sum from the same newspaper over a follow-up article.

Sizewell start

Large-scale building work on Sizewell B in Suffolk, Britain's first nuclear pressurized water reactor, begins next month, several weeks ahead of schedule, after approval by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers for the Central Electricity Generating Board's key components in the £1.7 billion project.

PERCEPTIONS OF TV VIOLENCE

BELIEFS ABOUT CHILDREN'S PERCEPTIONS

I believe that children learn very quickly to distinguish between the violence shown on fictional and reality programmes.

Agree: 28% Neither: 35% Disagree: 37%

Children understand well enough that TV violence is not real.

Agree: 21% Neither: 29% Disagree: 50%

TV violence gives children the impression murder occurs daily.

Agree: 60% Neither: 24% Disagree: 16%

No TV violence gives children an unreal picture of the world.

Agree: 35% Neither: 30% Disagree: 35%

MISCELLANEOUS OPINIONS ABOUT VIOLENCE ON TV

Programmes containing violence should be broadcast late.

Agree: 80% Neither: 12% Disagree: 8%

Too many programmes on television contain violence.

Agree: 50% Neither: 21% Disagree: 19%

There is already enough violence in real life.

Agree: 55% Neither: 24% Disagree: 21%

I sometimes wish TV violence was more realistic.

Agree: 15% Neither: 22% Disagree: 63%

People who say TV is harmful are ignorant about it.

Agree: 32% Neither: 33% Disagree: 35%

Sometimes I feel quite violent after watching crime on TV.

Agree: 6% Neither: 7% Disagree: 87%

Source: IBA/BBB

ITN satellite deal

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

ITN has won the battle to provide Britain's first satellite broadcasting with its news programmes for just over £10 million a year, it was disclosed last night.

Only last week British Satellite Broadcasting threatened to put the contract out to tender because it could not reach agreement with ITN.

But BSB sources last night confirmed that ITN had now agreed to set up a subsidiary company to provide the news service for eight hours a day at roughly half the cost first quoted.

Although one or two details

still have to be worked out, BSB has agreed in principle to award the contract to ITN.

BSB is due to launch four new national television services by direct broadcast satellite next year, one carrying live news and sport.

The company is determined to carry a different style of TV news and that is likely to result in more "popular" style stories.

It is likely to concentrate on issues such as the health service and the law on abortion as well as carrying "human interest" stories.

Drug studies show conflicting results

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Aspirin does not have a significant effect on the risk of heart attacks, a study in the latest issue of the *British Medical Journal* says. The results are at odds with those of American researchers published earlier this week.

The British study, led by Sir Richard Doll and involving 5,000 doctors, failed to find any significant benefits from taking half a gram of aspirin daily, a dose considerably higher than that used in the US study.

The American study claimed an almost 50 per cent reduction in the risk of heart attack from taking one aspirin tablet every other day.

The British results are, however, only preliminary, and involve a substantially smaller number of doctors.

Professor Michael Orme, of the clinical pharmacology department at Liverpool University, said the results were not directly comparable, be-

cause of the difference in dose used.

The American doctors had also taken part in a simultaneous trial of a potential anticancer drug, which might have influenced the results.

Professor Orme said there was also questions about the validity of the British trial.

"Would a lower or higher dose of aspirin have achieved a significant result? Did the doctors in the control group take aspirin surreptitiously? The answers to these questions are not known."

In spite of those caveats, the results of the studies suggested that doctors should consider giving aspirin every day to patients needing protection from second heart attacks, Professor Orme said.

He said further investigation was necessary before aspirin was taken routinely to prevent first heart attacks.

Sergeant cleared of two charges

An Army sergeant was cleared by a court martial yesterday of using the bare buttocks of recruits as a "human xylophone".

Sergeant Brian Thomas, aged 29, was found not guilty of the accusation on the third day of the court martial at Tern Hill barracks, Shropshire. A charge of striking a soldier while his head was in a rubbish bin was dropped at the end of the prosecution case.

Sergeant Thomas, now with the Royal Regiment of Wales, based in West Germany, still faces 10 charges of striking soldiers, four of ill-treatment, and one of exposing recruits to CS gas without respirators. He has denied the allegations.

Major Andrew Scott, for the prosecution, had alleged that Sergeant Thomas ordered recruits to kneel with their buttocks in the air and call out a musical note each time he hit them with a baseball bat.

The incident was alleged to

have happened when Sergeant Thomas was a corporal in charge of Plasley platoon, at the Prince of Wales division, Lichfield, Staffordshire, in 1986.

Sergeant Thomas denied yesterday that he hit a recruit with a baseball bat during a mattress inspection. He admitted prodding recruits with the bat, but said it was only done in fun.

He denied that he had hit any recruit with the bat. He also said he was not responsible for letting off CS gas pellets in an accommodation room at a training camp at Warcop, Cumbria.

Sergeant Thomas also denied ordering recruits at Warcop to take down their trousers and underwear before hitting them on the buttocks. He further denied urinating on a recruit and daubing shampoo and shaving cream on the genitals of another.

The court martial continues today.

Faulty computers 'will kill'

By Our Technology Correspondent

Government scientists believe a serious accident caused by faulty microchips is "inevitable" in the next four years.

Computer experts at the Ministry of Defence's Royal Signals and Radar Establishment said the prediction was based on investigations into the number of design faults in military microchips.

The percentage of faults found was so high that the ministry had decided to make public its concern about faulty microprocessors in civilian use.

"If we had kept it bottled up in defence, we would have been in a very bad position morally when the first civilian smash happened", Dr John Culler of the computing division of RSRE said yesterday.

He said a consensus had been reached at a private meeting of Nato computer experts last year that "computer-aided disasters" were "inevitable".

"Some time between 1991

and 1992, computers will start to kill human beings in a way that will be noticed by others", Dr Culler said.

Where the first such disaster would occur was impossible to predict, however, because of the plethora of applications for microchips. Power stations, civilian aircraft and hi-tech cars were all potential sites, he said.

Dr Culler said the provision of back-up chips afforded no protection against chips which contained hidden errors in their design. Such errors would be revealed only in particular circumstances, perhaps 15 years after the chip was put on the market.

Cases alleging that deaths have been caused by computers are now coming to court in the United States. A defence contractor is being sued by the widow of an F-16 aircraft pilot, whom she claims was killed when a computer gave incorrect instructions to wing control surfaces.

Working with Southampton University, RSRE has become

the world's leading centre for tracing design faults in microchips.

Ministry scientists believe Britain is also about to take a lead in averting computer-aided disasters with the launch yesterday of the first microprocessor capable of being proved mathematically to be free of design faults.

Developed by RSRE in collaboration with Edinburgh and Cambridge universities, the Viper chip is to be mass-produced by Marconi and Charter Technologies in the UK.

Conventional devices are programmed using special "languages", which are capable of hiding ambiguities and mistakes. The design of Viper, in contrast, is subjected to mathematical proof to eliminate such faults.

More than a dozen British organizations, including the Atomic Energy Authority and British Rail, are currently investigating the possible use of Viper chips.

£45,000 fine for share bids

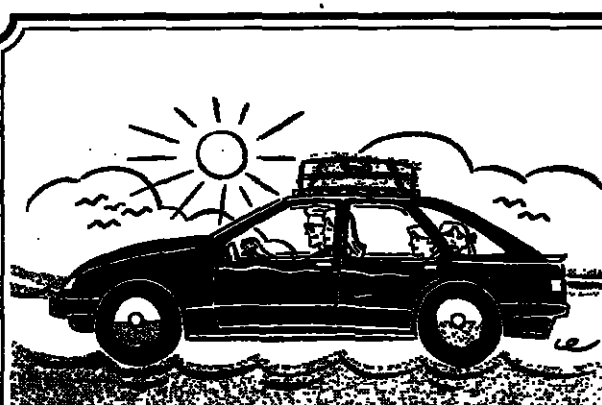
An "uncannily successful" amateur share dealer was brought to the brink of financial ruin by his obsession with wheedling and dealing, a court was told yesterday.

Graham Stride, aged 34, lost £25,000 in the stock market crash and was fined £45,000 for making multiple share applications by magazines at Bow Street court, central London, yesterday. He is currently £34,000 overdrawn.

Stride, a furniture salesman, was frustrated with his job, the court was told. He began to dabble in the stock market

Between November 1986 and February 1987, he filled out 335 application forms for British Gas, British Airways Authority and TSB shares using fictitious names. Had he not been caught, he stood to gain £53,130.

Stride, of Watford, Hertfordshire, pleaded guilty to 30 specimens charges of gaining shares by deception.



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Discipline moves to come on RUC shootings affair

Disciplinary proceedings to follow the Stalker and Sampson inquiries into the fatal shooting incidents involving the RUC six years ago in Northern Ireland could have "very serious consequences for the individuals concerned", Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during exchanges about the Stalker and Sampson inquiries.

He was questioned about the effect on confidence in the Royal Ulster Constabulary of the minority community.

Mr King, following the Attorney General's statement on Monday, said that the decision not to prosecute officers of the RUC in the wake of the Stalker and Sampson inquiries was not the end of the matter.

The next step was the consideration of disciplinary proceedings based on the findings of the report.

The circumstances surrounding the incidents in 1982 had given rise to concern about procedures, responsibilities and control within the RUC and the inquiry report had recommended a special inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. That inspection had been completed and he had received the report on Monday.

He had forwarded it to the Chief Constable (Sir John Hermon) for his early comments.

He repeated that the report of the Stalker and Sampson inquiries, a police investigation into possible criminal offences, would not be published.

Mr Anthony Lloyd (Stratford, Lab) said that, at the time John Stalker had been taken off the inquiry as deputy chief constable of Greater Manchester, it had been widely rumoured that he had already recommended prosecution against some of the lower serving ranks and that he had intended to question senior officers of the RUC.

"Because of that, and because it is important that the RUC should be respected throughout the whole community in Northern Ireland, the decision not to pursue prosecutions has left the RUC in a very difficult position

N IRELAND

of not having the confidence of the whole community."

Mr King said that, because of the great concern expressed, it was important not to duck the issue and to seek to explain as fully as possible.

He understood entirely the need for the minority communities to have confidence in the RUC. He bitterly regretted the incidents, for which four constables had been charged with the offence of murder, but they had been the subject of the most exhaustive investigations and inquiries.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) said that in order to restore the

Debate call

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, asked for a debate in government time after "the decision to cover up the Stalker/Sampson report". The debate would give the Attorney General and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland the opportunity to try to justify their decision not to take proceedings on evidence that the course of justice was being perverted.

Mr John Wakeham, the Leader of the House, said that the Secretary of State would make a statement on the matter and it would be better to have that first and see how best to proceed.

confidence not merely of the minority community in the North, but also that of the government of the Irish Republic, a judicial inquiry should be held.

Mr King said that Mr Stalker's draft conclusions had been included in the final report and Mr Sampson had commented on them.

Sir John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest, C) said that the DPP must consider the safety and continued effectiveness of members of the security services and those who helped them.

He awaited with confidence the further statement. "I believe those in charge of the RUC will be as concerned as anyone to see that the disciplinary proceedings are carried out to the full so that the proper outcome is reached."

Mr King said that this was not the end of the matter. Disciplinary proceedings were possible with very serious consequences for the individuals concerned.

The difficulty and the challenge faced by the Attorney General and the DPP for Northern Ireland was that they were constitutionally required to consider the public interest. These were very difficult decisions.

Mr John Hume (Foyles, SDLP) said that in most societies the national interest was best served by the unequivocal and impartial implementation of the rule of law. It was best served by the community as a whole having confidence in the police service and the administration of justice.

Mr Thatcher had said that there must be no hiding place anywhere in the islands for anyone who committed a crime. The implication was that there was a hiding place for a very small group of people.

Mr King said four people had already been charged with murder in a court of law. It was simply unacceptable to imply that there was an attempt to cover up.

Mr Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, asked for confirmation that any disciplinary proceedings would be in camera and not in public, so that the House would still not know even part of the truth.

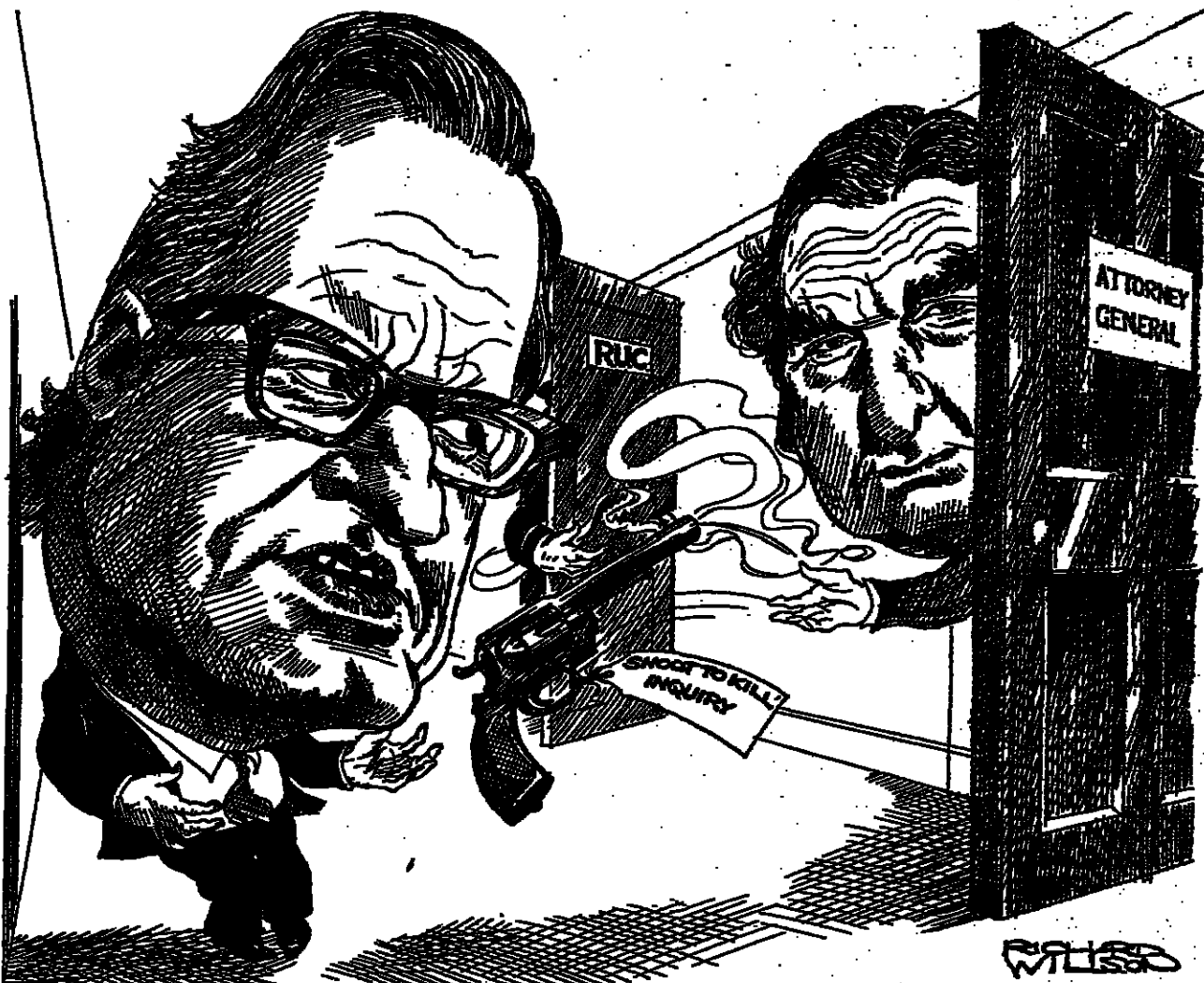
He also asked for confirmation that when the Secretary of State had consulted the Attorney General he had advised that on the ground of public interest and national security there should be no prosecution on the Stalker/Sampson report.

Had that advice been based on the knowledge that if prosecuted the Government's thinking on a proposed White Paper than he had during the Commons debate on January 15 on the Bill sponsored by Mr Richard Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills, C).

Mr Hurd said that during that debate, he had given an account of the Government's intentions and the issues it was considering.

In his radio interview to be transmitted that (Thursday) evening, he had discussed in general terms the balance to be struck between the obligations of civil servants and the public's right to know, and had given examples of different types of information which might, or might not require the protection of the criminal law.

"The analysis I offer is in



Mr Tom King (left) and Sir Patrick Mayhew considering the aftermath of the Stalker/Sampson affair

BBC statement was misleading

The BBC had issued a misleading press statement about his interview on the Radio Four Analysis programme on the reform of the Official Secrets Act, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said.

He had gone no further in setting out the Government's thinking on a proposed White Paper than he had during the Commons debate on January 15 on the Bill sponsored by Mr Richard Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills, C).

Mr Hurd said that during that debate, he had given an account of the Government's intentions and the issues it was considering.

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"The analysis I offer is in

SECURITY

accordance with the Franks report and has been common ground since 1972."

A White Paper would be published in June and there would be a Commons debate before the summer recess. He had given no details of the Government's proposals in the radio interview.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Home Affairs, said that, during the debate on the Bill, Mr Hurd had claimed that the Government had not yet decided on its new policy and had dismissed and derided as "illy" the idea that the Government should describe its interim conclusions.

"Why does he now say in a broadcast what he refused to say to this House? By announcing to the BBC rather than here that the Government will not support the parliamentary oversight of the security services, his arrogance amounted to com-

tempt or simple, bone-headed stupidity."

The central theme of the broadcast — the division of Government information into different categories of sensitivity — was so near to the principles of the Shepherd Bill that, had he made his position clear at that time, the passage of the Bill through the Commons would have been inevitable, which was probably why he had chosen to say it on the radio instead.

How much of the content of the radio interview had been in the original draft of Mr Hurd's speech on the Bill, which had been circulated in advance to the press, but had been cut out of the final version?

"Why does he demean himself all these ways to pandering to the Prime Minister's obsession that the security services are her personal and private property?"

Mr Hurd said that his radio comments on the supervision of the security services had been identical to those he had made in another Commons debate on the issue a year ago.

In the debate on the Shepherd Bill he had sketched out the areas which the Government would need to define for the protection of the criminal law. "That is exactly what I do again in the broadcast. I am not defining Government proposals in any detail."

If he had done so, he would have been guilty of discourtesy to the House, but when MPs looked at the transcript they would see he did not.

Mr Mervyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab), a former Home Secretary, asked why Mr Hurd did not formalize the consultation process by allowing people to give evidence before a select committee in advance of publication of the White Paper. "It would save time and allow the Government to act with all-party support."

Mr Hurd said that the sensible and logical way to proceed was for the Government to set out its thoughts and proposals in the White Paper and then for the House to debate it.

Orders for ferry safety

Orders making boarding cards mandatory on cross-channel ferries will be laid before the Commons in the next two weeks and take effect on February 29, Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, said.

At the same time it will be made mandatory to close the vehicle deck doors of a roll-on, roll-off ferry before the vessel leaves port or as soon as it is possible to do so.

Mr Channon, who was opening the second reading debate on the Merchant Shipping Bill, said that further orders controlling ro-ro vessels will come soon.

"They would cover draught gauges, loading equipment, emergency escape windows. Management would have to provide comprehensive operating manuals with arrangements for them to be inspected by the Department of Transport."

Deficiencies at museum

A financial management and policy review had identified deficiencies in the way that the National Museum of Wales was being run, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, said in a written reply.

The review, by consultants, contained proposals for improvements that would have far-reaching implications for the future management of the museum and for its relationship with the Welsh Office.

He had asked for a considered response from the museum by March 4 and he would ensure that the recommendations were treated "with urgency and determination."

Benefits of the poll tax

Why were the inestimable benefits of the community charge to be enjoyed by the poor in Eastbourne and South Tyne, Mr Ian Gough (Eastbourne, C) (above) asked during Northern Ireland questions.

Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, said that the structure of local government and financial arrangements were very different in Northern Ireland.

Mr Gough had asked what representations had been received seeking the introduction of the community charge in Northern Ireland.

Mr Stanley said, to general laughter, that the representations from members of the public amounted to one letter.

\$21,580 for lobby

A total of 779 Metropolitan police officers had policed the recent demonstration and abortion lobby in London, Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in a Commons written reply.

Some 531 officers had been rostered for the demonstration at a cost, mainly in overtime and catering, of £21,580. A further 248 officers had been drafted in from other duties.

Ulster needs extra health care

The Government accepted that there was an additional need for health care in Northern Ireland and would continue to provide a high level of funding, Mr Richard Needham, Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during Commons questions.

He denied an allegation by Mr John McWilliam (Blydenham, Lab) that the Government had "failed to meet the crisis developing in health care in Northern Ireland."

Mr Needham said that, in Ulster, 23 per cent more was

spent on the health service each year.

● About 120 applications had been received by the new Cross-Community Contact Scheme, which helps schools, colleges, youth groups and reconciliation bodies to organize cross-community activities for young people in Ulster, Dr Brian Mawhinney, Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during questions.

Of those applications, 52 were from the schools sector and involved 131 schools.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Debate on Government proposal to guarantee debate on the Education (Reform) Bill.

Tuesday: Local Government Bill, committee, fourth day. Wednesday: Debates on world AIDS summit; completion of EEC internal market; afforestation in Northern Ireland.

Thursday: Legal Aid Bill, report.

bench Bills, second readings.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Local Government Bill, committee, third day. Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Bill, committee.

Tuesday: Local Government Bill, committee, fourth day. Wednesday: Debates on world AIDS summit; completion of EEC internal market; afforestation in Northern Ireland.

Thursday: Legal Aid Bill, report.

Row over Scots school

A statement about the procedure for school closures in Scotland was condemned by the Opposition as an outrageous action on the basis of one particular school, Paisley Grammar School, which had caught the attention of the Prime Minister.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, announced in his statement that legislation had been laid on Wednesday which had the effect that where an education authority proposed to close, change the site, or vary the catchment area of any school where the number of pupils at the school was greater than 80 per cent of its capacity, that proposal should be referred to the Secretary of State for his consent.

Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, described the action being taken by the Government as an extraordinary initiative. It had been represented in the press as the dramatic and personal intervention of the Prime Minister but it could more fairly be seen as high-handed, arbitrary and designed simply to court popularity.

In his statement, Mr Rifkind said that the Secretary of State for Scotland had the power to review school closures since 1985. Until 1981, any proposal to close any school in Scotland had to come to him for his consent.

A number of education authorities were now faced with substantial over-capacity in their schools. Understandably, some authorities were contemplating proposals that would involve the closure of a considerable number of schools. This would allow them to use their

EDUCATION



Mr Rifkind: Power has long existed

At that time, the House had approved a change in the regulations which left two categories of school for which his consent was required for a closure proposal — denominational schools and rural schools where the alternative was more than a certain distance from the school to be closed.

Mr Dewar wondered whether there would be a genuine review of the matter in the case of Paisley Grammar School, or whether the Prime Minister's letter to the headmaster of that school pre-judged the issue.

Mr Rifkind said that there had been representations on this matter from the rector of Paisley Grammar School and from 2,550 members of the public. But the regulations were not concerned with one school and no individual schools had been identified in the regulations or in his statement to the House today.

resources for education more effectively.

The Education (Scotland) Act already placed a duty on both the Secretary of State and education authorities to ensure that pupils were educated in accordance with parental wishes. It was therefore reasonable to expect education authorities to take into account parent demand in considering proposals for school closures.

Nobody could be surprised when an authority proposed to close half-empty schools. But where a school was full or nearly full, and by that fact demonstrated that it had the clear and strong support of parents and that it gave good value for money to its community, he believed it was only right that there should be scope for further review of a proposal to close such a school.

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Thatcher keeps to promise on NHS

Election pledges on not charging for elements of the National Health Service stood for the life of this Parliament, Mrs Thatcher said during Prime Minister's questions.

She added that the internal review of the NHS would be completed by the beginning of the next parliament and that promises then would last for the life of that parliament.

She was responding to Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, who wanted a formal statement that there would be no charges for health services.

He reminded the Prime Minister that she had said only five weeks ago that charges for patients in NHS hospitals could not possibly come in the lifetime of this Parliament. She had recalled ruling that out during the general election campaign. Did she still stand by her words?

Mrs Thatcher said that she had answered a similar question a short time ago (Labour shouts of "Answer").

Mr Kinnock asked if she was saying that there was no possibility in this Parliament of direct or indirect charges for visits to the doctor, for hospital visits, for family planning services or anything else?

If she was, and that is what she had said during the election would she make that formal

PRIME MINISTER

announcement, instead of letting it seep out through Mr Bernard Ingham, her press secretary?

Mrs Thatcher: I have been asked this question in this House and I have answered it in this House. The statements made during the general election campaign stand.

By the time the next parliament comes, we shall have completed the internal review... (Labour laughter)... and we shall make our promises then which will stand for the following parliament.

Mr Timothy Smith (Beaconsfield, C) asked if she agreed that strikes proposed for next week by certain nursing unions could only hurt patients. Would she condemn this action and invite Mr Kinnock to do the same?

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. Strike action in the health service harms the patient and puts heavier burdens on those with higher professional standards who refuse to strike.

I condemn such action and hope it might have been condemned by all parts of the House. It is condemned by those who care about the health service (Conservative cheers).

During the general election campaign the health service issue was the grumbling appendix of the Conservative Party, not incapacitating, but a warning of trouble to come. The Tories can be thankful that it did not erupt earlier. But now that it has, what will the political consequences be?

Already it is clear that the nature of the debate has changed. Up to now the Government has been under pressure to convince the country that it was not going to mess around with a cherished system. "The National Health Service is safe in our hands", Mrs Thatcher had to keep on proclaiming.

Now the Government is under pressure to do something about a system that is thought to be in danger of collapse. The case for change, at least in a very general sense, has been made by the Government's own critics.

Mrs Thatcher herself has sharply adjusted her strategy. Until recently she was maintaining in private that reform of the health service would be a task for her fourth term.

In the meantime she evidently believed that it would be enough to keep on trumpeting dry statistics about the money spent and treatments performed under her administration. Now she has indicated that radical action will be a high priority.

But the Government may well be tested long before its proposals for reforming the service could possibly be ready. How

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

will it fare politically if our hospitals are disrupted by striking nurses, and our emotions are torn night after night by harrowing tales on television?

Simple comparisons with the winter of discontent are to my mind wide of the mark. Then the country's wrath was directed disproportionately at the unions, and the Labour Government suffered doubly. It was unable to control them and it was associated with them.

The nurses are different. It is true that their reputation as angels of mercy may take a bit of a knock if raucous voices are heard on the picket line. Mr Thatcher is obviously aware of the danger for Labour of being linked to a health service strike.

But with the Presidents of the Royal Colleges and the medical profession in general joining the chorus of complaint about the state of the NHS it is clear that this is not 1978-79 all over again.

For the Government simply to condemn the protests will not do. If it behaves improperly there will be a widespread feeling that it ought not to have allowed such a situation to develop.

If immediate trouble is not to be bought off by guaranteeing the nurses whatever increase the pay review body recommends — and I accept the argument against writing a blank cheque in advance — it then becomes all the more necessary for ministers to strike the right note of sympathetic understanding.

That will be equally essential when the long-term reforms are published. What the general public value about the NHS is that treatment should be virtually free at the point of delivery. That principle is already qualified by certain charges, such as for prescriptions. But it is still broadly in force.

I do not believe that the Government intends to discard it now. But the political risk it runs is that there will be popular suspicion of whatever it may propose.

When ministers speak of improving the services they are thinking of saving money and partly

of improving the efficiency with which resources are used. But the medical professions and most of the general public are thinking of increasing the flow of public money.

If the Government is not to find the whole exercise politically self-defeating it will have to convince the country of two things: first, that the basic principle of the NHS is not being infringed; and second, that any structural reforms are being introduced to improve the quality of health care, not just for the sake of some abstract theory.

I believe that there is a case for greater competition both within the NHS and between the state and private sectors in the provision of health care. But if this looks like competition for the sake of competition, because this is what all good Thatcherites ought to believe in, then there will be an outcry.

Ministers will have to convince the country that patients in general, not just a select few, will benefit from the process. That ought not to be an impossible task, especially if more public money is provided at the same time — as it probably will be.

But this issue is likely to provide a more searching test of the Government's political skills than any other in this Parliament. The country is less inclined to give the Conservatives the benefit of the doubt on health than on almost any other question.

Workload will be cut

Non-routine cases to be speeded

IMMIGRATION

The following report of a Commons debate on an Opposition motion approving new immigration rules appeared in later editions yesterday.

The new rules would cut the workload of immigration officials and enable them to increase the speed with which non-routine cases were dealt with, Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State, Home Office, said.

He was defending the rules, which establish a standard six-months' stay for visitors from non-EEC countries and cut the need for many people, including businessmen, to apply for renewal of permits.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that the Immigration Division was in absolute chaos.

Men and women who did no more than apply to exercise their legal rights waited for months, sometimes for years, to receive vouchers and visas which ought to be theirs automatically.

There should be an independent inquiry into the administration of the department and into staff levels; the abolition of the probationary period for people already here, having arrived with visas; and a six-

months' stay should be the normal practice for visitors.

Mr Renton said that the delays at Lumar House were excessive. One reason was because of the great number of applications received for registration for British citizenship before the end of last year. "This is a once and for all problem. The applications are now in."

The Government proposals would reduce the caseload on written work so that the department could spend its time on more complex matters, including representations from MPs.

"We have no intention of removing the rights of MPs to write to Timothy Renton about individual cases."

The review which we have undertaken is intended to provide proposals for dealing more efficiently with this vast amount of correspondence. I hope that as a result we will be able to offer an improved service to MPs and their constituents."

The regulations would remove the need for extensions of stay and take 40,000 cases a year out of 233,000 from the workload of Lumar House.

Businessmen were at present admitted for 12 months with extensions of 12 months to a maximum of four years, when they would be eligible to apply for settlement.

They would keep the initial admission for 12 months. The businessman would then be able to apply for an extension of three years' stay to the maximum.

The changes would benefit Indian businessmen in particular. Visitors would be admitted for six months instead of a sizeable minority being admitted only for shorter periods and then having to apply for extensions.

More visitors would benefit from the procedural change than would lose: there would be eight times as many "winners" as "losers". In 1986, 280,000 had been admitted for less than six months, while fewer than 25,000 had been granted extensions for more than six months.

Finances would be admitted initially for six months instead of three.

The changes would begin to be implemented on February 1. The motion disapproving of the rules was rejected by 257 votes to 202; government majority, 55.

Birmingham pub bombers stay in jail as appeal is thrown out

Judges brand new witnesses unconvincing liars

The possibility of a retrial for the six Irishmen convicted of the Birmingham public house bombings in 1974 was ruled out within a few minutes of the start of the judgement on their appeal by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, and two other appeal judges. They also swiftly turned down claims by the six men that they had been beaten and intimidated by police.

Lord Lane said the appellants' counsel's call for a retrial was an "unreal suggestion". It would be highly unsatisfactory to have such a trial 13 years after the original trial. The appeal before the court was the sort of case where there was no half-way house.

Lord Lane said the appellants suggested that the court should consider what the jury at the original trial in Lancaster would have made of new evidence. But it was decided on another case some years ago that the appeal judges could consider only points of law or evidence. There was no power to quash a verdict if it was thought the jury would come to another decision.

The six men were convicted for bombings in November, 1974, which was the culmination of a series of attacks in the

they said they were going to visit relatives who did not know they were coming. There was, Lord Lane said, ample evidence the five were going not to bury McDade but to express approval.

Among the surrounding evidence in the case was the fact that Hugh Callaghan arrived home after seeing the others off in a shaken state. Neighbours of Richard Walker reported seeing parcels taken into his house late at night before the bombings. He warned friends about going out on nights which proved to be nights when bombs went off in the Midlands. He also drew a sketch of a bomb and there were links to bomb-making equipment and the IRA.

The judgement was then taken up first by Lord Justice Stephen Brown and then by Lord Justice O'Connor who dealt with the men's allegations of ill-treatment.

Lord Justice Brown said William Power, who made the first confession, claimed there was a concerted attack on him as soon as he walked into an interview room. The judge said it was unrealistic that the police would have attacked before hearing his story.

He had clearly signed the statement he made, and the signature gave the lie to claims his hands had been beaten. He identified one policeman who everyone else including his own counsel at the original trial accepted was not there.

The judge said: "The allegations of assault are inconsistent with what his solicitor says or was told. It was highly unlikely West Midlands police would have been allowed to carry out a concerted and speedy attack in a strange place. Power confessed voluntarily and speedily when faced with scientific evidence incriminating him."

Walker claimed he was subject to attacks including threats to shoot him, slappings and other blows. Yet later police said he helped to find a house where he said detonators were stored. Walker denied this but the judge said: "If one delves into Walker's case, the clearer it becomes he was involved in the gang."

Richard McKenny claimed a gun with blanks was fired at him, but the judge said there had been evidence that the guns issued to the police could not fire blanks. The incident



The judges who ruled against the Birmingham Six yesterday: Lord Justice Stephen Brown; Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice; and Lord Justice O'Connor.

happened in a police station and gunfire would have caused alarm but none occurred.

Lord Justice O'Connor said Callaghan said made a later statement after confessing and it was "unbelievable" he did not retract the earlier confession then.

His behaviour with the police fitted the shock he showed to others after the bombings. Robert Hunter claimed to have a long list of injuries, but the only person who agreed with this description of them was Power. Hill never confessed. Allegations he made later were never made to a public inquiry into police brutality held after his arrest.

The judge said the court had not overlooked the fact that the confessions and statements did not tally with each other or scientific evidence, but "the fact they do not tally is no reason for thinking they were concocted by the police."

The original jury saw and heard witnesses and the appellants. He said: "It was surprising if the jury did not think they lied and got together."

The judges then turned to the two key areas of the appeal: the forensic evidence and the witnesses who claimed the appellants were attacked or intimidated by police.

By the end of the four-hour judgement, the judges had vindicated the Home Office forensic scientist in the case and rejected the witnesses to intimidation.

Mrs Joyce Lynas was a police cadet at Queens Road police station, Birmingham where five of the Irishmen were held after their arrest. She originally appeared in court to back up evidence that the men may have been threatened or kept in bad conditions. She later returned to say she had lied about not seeing anyone attacked and described seeing a man being struck. She said she had failed to come forward because of what she took to be threats through a call to her old station and a later anonymous call to her home.

Lord Justice Brown said the threat she claimed was a poor reason for her lies the first time she appeared in court. She said she changed her mind after seeing a programme about brutality in the Army which included the point that people should come forward.

The judge said: "We do not believe this account of evidence or her reason for having

a change of heart." A remark made to her about her family was not, in the court's view, a threat which would cause her worry. When she spoke to her old station she talked to a policeman she had known and they chatted. The witness

seemed more convincing the first time she appeared. Mrs Lynas, the judge said, was not worthy of belief.

The second key witness was Mr Tom Clarke, a former Birmingham policeman once jailed for stealing £5 from a prisoner, whose 1986 evidence of attacks on the prisoners led to the case being sent back to the Court of Appeal.

The judge pointed to three sets of statements, interviews or affidavits which he had made and discrepancies in them over a gun being poked into cells. When the appellants appeared at the original trial and later tried to sue the police over their treatment, they made no mention of guns.

The judge said the clue to what Mr Clarke had said appeared in the book on the case by Mr Christopher Mullin. There was a reference in it to an incident not at Queens Road but in the city

lockup, where the men were kept on the night before they appeared in court. The only complaint by the appellants came 12 years later from Hill.

The judge said Mr Clarke had contradicted himself about his description of man he saw injured in the police station. Lord Justice Brown said the conclusion about his story that the prisoners were made to stand up and sit down all night was "unavoidably" that it was made up.

Mr Clarke had been "a most unconvincing witness and an embittered man". It "became clear his motive was not to see these appellants escape the sort of injustice he had suffered but first make money and blacken the reputation of the police."

"We have no doubt the evidence given to us by Tom Clarke that his colleagues in the West Midlands police treated these appellants with brutality was false. Even he was constrained to admit that he told a colleague in 1976 that the appellants were treated with kid gloves."

Looking at the evidence from other witnesses about ill treatment, Lord Justice O'Connor said the court regretted that two prison officers — Brian Sharp and Peter Bourne — had ever been called. Neither was believed when they said they took delivery of the appellants of

Winsom Green already injured.

One of the points in the appellants' case was a schedule drawn up by Det Supt George Reade, who was in charge of the bombings investigation, setting out interviews and described by the appellants as the blueprint for a choreographed plot to fabricate the case against the men.

Mr Reade had said he was no longer sure why he had drawn up the schedule but he rejected the suggestion of fabrication. The judge said the allegations of a conspiracy were rejected at the trial.

Mr Reade, based in Walsall, had volunteered to help after the bomb. It was "a matter of chance that he was requested to help CID to take charge of officers sent to Morecambe. Most of those were strangers to him."

The judge said if it was a blueprint it was remarkably ineffective, since there were mistakes on it. He added: "With no disrespect to Mr Reade, he was not quite clearly a person capable of carrying through such a huge and complicated conspiracy."

The document was informal and some kind of aide memoire. After 11 years there was confusion. The judge said: "The allegations of a false case involving police and perjury and fabrication was canvassed at the trial. It is clear the jury rejected every allegation. This court is quite satisfied however the original purpose of this document cannot sensibly or seriously be a blueprint for perjury."

Looking at the scientific evidence, the court had to consider the position of Dr

Frank Skuse, who found traces of chemicals linked to explosives on three of the appellants.

Lord Lane said one argument centred on what solution of caustic soda he had used the "Griess Test". If it was a 1 per cent solution, then nitro-cellulose could have been detected as well as nitro-glycerine.

The doctor denied he had used this amount or alcohol which could also produce a result for nitro-cellulose but had used 0.1 per cent in tests at Morecambe police station. The Lord Chief Justice said there was no question that the scientist had been part of any attempt to fabricate evidence or a conspiracy.

A paper he wrote before the trial confirmed that he used the correct formula or used alcohol. In 1985, when he supplied a formula to a television researcher he gave the 1 per cent solution and claimed he told his director that he had not used it. He said he did not know the results were for investigations into the Birmingham case.

The judge said the court could not accept he had said he had used the correct formula. He said: "We think the explanation may have been that Dr Skuse was unsure of the formula and did not bother to look in to his file."

It may well be the test was carried out with 0.1 per cent solution and no alcohol. There was now so much doubt about what the Griess Test at Morecambe was that it might not be taken as a test for nitro-glycerine.

There was no grounds for criticizing another test which had shown positive traces of a chemical linked to explosives.

There were arguments that the men might have got nitro-cellulose traces from playing cards on a train journey before their arrest or from varnish in the train, but the varnish was not cellulose. Lord Lane asked how could it be that two men got traces from the cards which were mistaken for nitro-glycerine but the owner of the cards did not.

The cards were tested for nitro-glycerine by scientists. The test would also have shown up nitro-cellulose but the cards showed neither.

Lord Lane said nothing had emerged which threw doubt on the scientific evidence against the appellants and that one or more of them had been in contact with explosives.

Points were made to the jury about the scientific evidence at the original trial that the evidence was unsafe. There remained nothing unsafe about the evidence.

At the end of the judgement, Lord Lane said: "The longer the hearing has gone on, the more this court has been convinced the jury was correct."

In this sort of case there is no half-way house

Birmingham area. Twenty-one people died and more than 160 were injured.

Lord Lane said the case against the men presented at Lancaster Crown Court the following year was formidable in any view. Apart from statements made to the police by the appellants and scientific evidence, there was "a wealth of surrounding evidence" which strengthened the case.

Five of the six were arrested at Helysham on their way to Ireland. They left Birmingham shortly before the bombs went off after meeting at New Street close to the targets.

They said later they were going to attend the funeral of James McDade, an IRA lieutenant who had killed himself in a bomb blast a week before the public house bombings.

But Lord Lane said when the five were first questioned

How court after court ruled against the six

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Reporter

The Birmingham Six last night found themselves back in prison knowing that unless fresh evidence of their innocence appears, their only chance of freedom may be in release on licence sometime in the next decade.

But there have always been supporters and friends unwavering in their belief the six Ulstermen are innocent. Yesterday's judgement will not halt attempts by campaigners — some of whom have worked for more than 12 years — to get the six men freed, although the going will get harder.

During the appeal hearing, pessimistic campaigners pointed out that other cause celebre cases had been returned to the court up to four times before defendants were released.

However, it may not only be the Birmingham Six who suffer setback. There are other campaigns on behalf of defendants convicted in trials arising from the Guildford, Woolwich and M62 coach bombings and bomb factory conspiracy. All may lose momentum.

Yesterday's decision may also have wider implications both in London and in Dublin. Critics of the operation of the Court of Appeal are likely to seize on the decision as yet another example of what they believe to be judicial inflexibility.

There will be debate in Dublin about the operation of the British legal system and the value of co-operating with the British in fighting terrorism.

The hearing was the fourth time a court had examined the case since the six men were arrested hours after two IRA bombs devastated two Birmingham public houses in

November 1974, killing 21 and injuring 161.

The case was first heard at Lancaster Crown Court in mid-1975. The jury was told that five of the six were arrested at Helysham on their way to the funeral in Ireland of James McDade, an IRA volunteer who had blown himself up in Coventry.

Dr Frank Skuse conducted tests on the five which showed that two had been handling nitro-glycerine. Given those findings, police interviews extracted confessions which also identified a sixth man.

The men were tried at Lancaster Crown Court with three others accused of conspiracy.

The confessions were described to the court as being the result of beatings and intense police pressure. They were tested in a "trial within a trial" lasting eight days in the absence of the jury and accepted by the judge. The scientific evidence was also challenged with the suggestion that Dr Skuse's results for nitro-glycerine could have been caused by nitro-cellulose. But Mr Justice Bridge, now Lord Bridge of Harwich, told the six they had been found guilty by the "clearest and most overwhelming evidence I have ever heard". Two of the men charged with them were convicted, the third was cleared.

In March 1976, the case went to the Court of Appeal on the grounds that the judge had pre-empted the jury in his summing-up.

Lord Widgery, then Lord Chief Justice, and two other judges ruled against the six.

Both hearings rejected claims that the men had been beaten by police, but some, one, somewhere had attacked them. Injuries visible at their

second remand appearance led to an inquiry headed by Mr David Owen, then assistant chief constable of Lincolnshire. He concluded the injuries had been caused by officers at Winsom Green prison. Fourteen officers were tried and acquitted.

The six men then used evidence put together by Dr David Paul, a consultant in forensic science, and now corner of the City of London, to start a civil action against the police over the injuries.

Attempts by the West Midlands police to stop the action reached the Court of Appeal in 1980. Lord Denning, then Master of the Rolls, and two other judges ruled for the police.

The future for the six looked grim, but the fight was not over. Granada Television's *World In Action* began a detailed examination in 1985 of Dr Skuse's work.

The programme's research, conducted by Dr Brian Caddy — now head of the forensic science unit at Strathclyde University — and Mr David Baldock, a former member of the forensic science service raised clear doubts.

In 1986, Mr Christopher Mullin, a *World In Action* researcher and now Labour MP for Sunderland South, published *Error of Judgement* which reproduced interviews with men who said they carried out the bombing.

A few months later, Mr Tom Clarke, on duty during the period the men were held at a Birmingham police station, described intimidation on of the men by Birmingham officers in detail. Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, ordered Devon and Cornwall police to check the new allegations and referred the case back to the Court of Appeal.



The devastation at the Mulberry Bush public house in Birmingham after the bombing on November 21, 1974.

Ruling fuels fears over British justice

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Pressure for a reform of the way the courts handle miscarriages of justice will be fuelled by the failure yesterday of the Birmingham six to have their convictions quashed.

Their case, referred to the Court of Appeal after a lengthy and sustained public campaign, illustrates vividly the notorious difficulty in successfully appealing in the English courts; and lawyers concerned about alleged miscarriages of justice now say steps must be taken to improve the way the courts handle such cases.

Lord Devlin, the distinguished retired law lord, maintains that ways need to be found to reduce — if not eliminate — the cases in which relevant evidence is missed.

"It should be made as easy for the defence to ensure that all the evidence is available for the trial court as it is for the prosecution to ensure that all the evidence of guilt is presented", he said.

But the main problem is that defence resources are not equal to those of the prosecution; and legal aid is inadequate where there are scientific matters to be investigated or difficult questions of law, he said. Proposals for a public defender system — as suggested by Justice, the

legal reform group — deserved a thorough airing.

A Commons home affairs committee, led by Sir John Eden, which examined miscarriages of justice in 1981-82 urged that cases causing particular concern should be referred to an independent review panel, which would advise the Home Secretary on exercising his powers.

But the proposal was rejected. Instead the Home Secretary said he would in future "prepare to exercise his power of reference (to the Court of Appeal) more readily", and the Lord Chief Justice said the court would be more ready to exercise its own powers to receive fresh evidence.

The Court of Appeal was created to remedy miscarriages of justice; but in practice, complainants have to surmount a series of difficult hurdles if their appeal is to succeed.

Dr John Baldwin and Dr Michael McConville have estimated in a survey over a year at one crown court that at least 5 per cent of defendants were convicted in doubtful circumstances; and Justice estimates there are 200 to 300 serious miscarriages of justice a year.

If a case has exhausted the normal

appeals procedure and still causes concern, the Home Secretary has power under the Criminal Appeal Act, 1968 to recommend the Royal Prerogative of Mercy. The Queen can then grant a full pardon; conditional pardon or order the remission of the remainder of a sentence.

Alternatively the Home Secretary can refer the case back to the Court of Appeal. The Act allows an appeal to be upheld if the judge makes an error of law in his summing up; if there is some material irregularity in the course of the trial; or if, in the light of all the circumstances, the guilty verdict was held to be "unsafe and unsatisfactory".

Section 23 of the Act says that for new evidence to be admissible it must be "likely to be credible", coupled with a reasonable explanation of the failure to adduce it at the time of the original trial; and this has been a huge hurdle for alleged victims of miscarriage of justice.

The definition of this was expanded by the then Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, in 1975 when he added "new evidence or other consideration of substance", but Home Office ministers have more recently put a more restrictive gloss that there must be "new evidence or new considerations of substance".

The police convinced us that they had got the right ones.

"The six men were going to McDade's funeral after he blew himself to pieces after planting a bomb in Coventry. They were sympathizers, so they were involved. I was always convinced they would not get off."

His wife, a shop assistant, aged 34, said: "These six men were not the brains behind it. I think there are others still walking free. But I am sure they planted the bombs and deserved what they got."

The families who still live with bombings terror after 13 years

By Craig Settle

The horror of the bombing of the Mulberry Bush and the Tavern in the Town has haunted the survivors and those who lost their loved ones for the past 13 years.

Mrs Ivy Roberts, whose only daughter Maureen, then 24, was among the 11 who died in the Tavern, is a sad, lonely widow, afraid to this day to go into Birmingham city centre.

Mrs Roberts, 61, said the death of her daughter had also eventually claimed the life of her husband Reg, who died four years

ago, aged 65, after two strokes. "Everybody said he died of a broken heart. He just never got over Maureen's death", she said.

"Wherever planted these bombs took everything from me, my daughter, my husband and my life and they deserved everything they got. Maureen would have been married now and probably I would have grandchildren. But instead I have got nothing and of course I am bitter."

"I've lived with the memory of that night every single day since."

"I just cannot go into town where it

happened. I have tried three times, but my legs freeze and I start crying. I could not bear to listen to the news of the appeal. I was so frightened that they would get off. Everyone is supposed to have lied."

"They should have been hanged at the time. Nobody can convince me that they did not have something to do with it, at least some of them."

Ian and Maureen Lord were only 15 feet from the blast that ripped through the Mulberry Bush, leaving them from their seats and killing 10 people around them.

Maureen was so badly injured by shrapnel that she was given the Last Rites. Ian was less seriously injured, but almost seventy pieces of a radiator destroyed by the bomb were found embedded in his sheepskin coat.

The couple were engaged at the time; now they are married with a son, aged five, and still live in Birmingham.

Mr Lord, aged 35, a factory worker, said: "There was a massacre in the town that night and it made me feel good to know they had got the right people for the bombing."

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Allegations against doctors 'may curb sex abuse detection'

By Peter Davenport

The two consultant paediatricians at the centre of the child sexual abuse crisis in Cleveland were mainly correct in their findings and acted throughout in good faith, their counsel said yesterday.

Allegations by two police surgeons that Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt examined children in such a way as to produce evidence of sexual abuse when none had taken place were offensive and untrue.

Mr Robert Nelson, QC, for the doctors, was making his closing submission to the inquiry. It was time, he said, that the false atmosphere surrounding the affair was coloured with the truth.

"The doctors were not hopelessly wrong but in many, many of these cases they were right and they were doing a substantial service to child health and for individual children."

Mr Nelson said that the degree of hostility directed at his clients may have an adverse effect on children who may be abused in the future.

"The publicity was so horribly wrong in its direct suggestion of errors made by the doctors that it involved at least a severe risk that children who in the future may be abused will continue to be abused because any doctors dealing with it are liable to be subjected to the degree of

hostility and hatred that my clients have."

Of the claims that his clients had examined children in such a way as to produce evidence of sexual abuse where none existed, he said: "To doctors who are described as good, caring, hardworking, and conscientious and, in Dr Wyatt's case as a man who showed exceptional love and care to dying children and their parents, such an allegation is offensive. It is certainly untrue."

The principal concern of the two consultants was that events in Cleveland should not deter other paediatricians from detecting cases of child sexual abuse.

Mr Nelson said the doctors' use of the controversial medical technique of reflex anal dilation (RAD) as a means of identifying sexual abuse, was valid. It had been referred to in a text book on forensic medicine as long ago as 1945, but it was controversial in that it had not been accepted by all doctors.

"We submit that on the basis of the evidence Dr Higgs and Dr Wyatt were acting entirely properly in relying on reflex anal dilation as a sign consistent with child sexual abuse."

Mr Nelson said that sexual abuse was considered in only a small proportion of children seen by the doctors as part of their daily duties at Middle-

brough General Hospital.

Between April and July last year Dr Wyatt saw between 1,200 and 1,600 children, of which he examined 70 for sexual abuse and found signs in 55 cases.

The two doctors found alleged signs of sexual abuse in 121 children but in only 18 of those cases did they rely solely on the anal dilation test. In the rest of the cases there were other physical signs.

At the height of the crisis, Mr Nelson said, it was suggested to the doctors that they should slow down their rate of admitting children on suspicion of sexual abuse.

"While this might have relieved the pressure on hospital services it was a difficult decision for the doctors to take."

Earlier Mr Robin Stewart QC, for Cleveland County Council, told the inquiry it was ironic that the authority had been pilloried not for under-acting, as in the Jasmine Beckford and Kimberley Cardle cases, but for over-reacting to firm and confident diagnoses from doctors.

Allegations by Mr Stuart Bell, Labour MP for Middlesbrough, that social workers had deliberately sought places of safety orders from a large number of magistrates so that none realized the extent of the crisis, were wholly without foundation.

The MP's further claims of conspiracy and collusion between Dr Higgs and the council's child abuse consultant, Mrs Sue Richardson, were, he said, unsubstantiated.

The inquiry will end today, its 74th day.

Bottle blowing Hoffnung style



Mr Gerald Priestland (left) Mr Bamber Gascoigne and Mr Donald Swann blowing into bottles in London yesterday while announcing the Gerard Hoffnung festival of music at the Festival Hall on February 12 and 13, which will recreate the music and humour of the cartoonist-musician. The concerts will be directed by his widow, Annetta (Photograph: John Rogers).

Trade war over airbus sales averted

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The threatened trade war between Europe and the United States over the alleged subsidies given to Airbus Industrie has been defused.

Politics, finance and commercial initiatives from American aircraft-makers have reduced markedly the anger being directed towards Europe from across the Atlantic.

At the same time Airbus is moving towards a new financial structure to allow partners, including British Aerospace, which has a 20 per cent stake, a clearer picture of

where their money is going.

Senators and manufacturers are unwilling because of the American presidential elections to become involved in a trade war with Europe.

The decline in the dollar has given American manufacturers a competitive edge in selling their jets around the world. Boeing has trimmed some programmes to concentrate on aircraft which will compete with Airbus and under-cut their prices.

Boeing unveiled two new aircraft in Seattle this week, one of which, the 737-400, is

designed to rival the Airbus A320. Unlike the Airbus, which uses revolutionary "fly by wire" controls and has a new cockpit layout, the 737-400 is based largely on existing technology. That, Boeing says, will enable airlines to train pilots and engineers quickly. The 737-400 is also much cheaper to produce and can be sold for about \$30 million (£16.5 million), less than the A320.

Boeing has been badly affected by the success of the various Airbus projects. The battle between the world's

three large aircraft manufacturers - Boeing, Airbus and McDonnell Douglas - will continue however. Airbus is confident that the new technology in its products will give it a distinct marketing advantage. Boeing has virtually abandoned plans to produce its own revolutionary aircraft, the 717, because of the cost and the need, as it sees it, to concentrate on improving existing technology.

McDonnell Douglas faces an uncertain future. Its three engined MD11 is still not selling well.

Farmers protest at drop in pig prices

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Pig farmers protested outside Agriculture House in south-west London yesterday and demanded action to halt the slide in the price of their animals.

Mr John Vincent, president of the National Pig Breeders' Association, said prices had declined by nearly £6 an animal in the last three months and were at their lowest for four years.

The pig industry is notoriously cyclical, this is because the animals have large litters, enabling production to be quickly increased as prices rise, often leading to a glut and a collapse in the market.

The position has been made worse by the overvaluation of the "Green Pound", which has the effect of subsidizing imports from Denmark and The Netherlands.

"Green" exchange rates are used to translate EEC farm prices from European Currency Units into the currencies of the member states. It should be possible to ensure that farmers throughout the EEC receive roughly the same price for their produce.

However, farmers' groups in Britain say the Green Pound is so seriously overvalued that farmers are losing millions of pounds.

Mr Simon Gourlay, president of the National Farmers' Union, said the Government's annual review of agriculture showed farm incomes last year were the second lowest in real terms since 1945.

A revolutionary diet for dairy cattle which could increase the industry's income by more than £500 million a year was launched yesterday. The diet, which uses enzyme biotechnology, was developed by Pauls Agriculture, of Ipswich.

Cleveland victims describe ordeals

All those involved in the welfare of children, including teachers, family doctors and social workers, should urgently be made aware of the facts of child sexual abuse and how to handle the problem, the inquiry was told yesterday.

The call was made by Mr David Venables, the Official Solicitor, in evidence presented in closing submissions. It was no longer wise for anyone concerned with the welfare of children to think of sexual abuse as something that happens rarely, he said.

"Parents need to know the signs and symptoms in their children that may be associated with sexual abuse. Further, parents and children alike must be able to turn for informed help to professionals in the community who are concerned with families, and general practitioners may well have a crucial role to play," Mr Venables said.

His evidence was presented by Mr Andrew Kirkwood. It included detailed and often moving interviews with 32 children, aged eight years and over, of the 165 originally seen by Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt for possible sexual abuse.

It was the first time the stories of those most centrally concerned with the events of last year had been presented in public.

Their stories, said the Official Solicitor, reflected misunderstanding, mistrust, discomfort, anger, fear, praise, gratitude and sheer relief.

Mr Venables reserved special praise for the courage of a Cleveland girl, aged 19, who volunteered her experiences of a lifetime of "quite unbelievable" sexual abuse by her father, which began when she was four years old.

Weekend food prices

Forty varieties of potato go on sale

Safeway Food Stores will this year offer customers about 40 varieties of old and new potatoes, "labelling them as carefully as fine wines and cheeses", including advice on the best way to cook them.

With the vast difference in the taste and texture of potatoes, from moist and waxy to dry and floury, this is important. Names such as Pink Fir Apple, Cleopatra, Edzell Blue and Kerr's Pink sound more like flowers than vegetables.

Home-grown red and white potatoes between 11p and 15p a lb are among the best buys, but there are also Italian new

Orange juice drinkers will be affected by a 25 per cent price rise over the next few weeks and there could be supply shortages, the British Soft Drinks Association said yesterday.

A drought in Brazil, the main supplier, has led to a huge increase in the price of concentrated juice, the association said.

potatoes at 30p-35p, Cyprus at 25p-30p and Egyptian Caras at 22p-26p.

Home-grown cabbages, greens and Brussels sprouts at between 15p and 30p a lb, cauliflowers 40p-60p each and mushrooms at 35p-55p for 1/2 lb are excellent value. Broccoli from 55p-95p a lb and courgettes at 75p-90p are reasonably priced.

Delicious crisp red apples from British Columbia and Washington state at 40p-55p a lb are really juicy and sweet and if used in cooking need no extra sugar.

Other fruits in good supply are avocados at 25p-60p each, conference pears 22p-25p and comice pears 30p-45p. Oranges 10p-30p each, grapefruit 12p-28p each, clementines 45p-55p a lb and pincapples 50p-£2.50 each.

There are adequate supplies of salad ingredients, including celery at 40p-60p each, Chinese leaves 70p-95p a head, iceberg lettuce 75p-£1 a head,

cucumber 45p-70p and spring onions 40p-45p a bunch. Watch the quality of tomatoes at 70p-90p a lb.

Many varieties of fish are down in price this week and supplies are good. Large cod at Billingsgate was down 20p a lb. Plaice fillet at about £2.40 and whole plaice about £1.30 are among the best buys. It is a good time to buy sprats, which are coming in to roe and are plump and full of flavour, at about 50p a lb.

Good quality halibut is about £5.95 a lb, Dover sole about £5.40 and turbot £5.45. Small whole salmon about 4lbs in weight are about £2.90 a lb. exotic imported fish available this week are shark at £2.90, kingfish at £4.20, parrot fish at £4 and tuna at £6.

Beef rump steak is about £3.30 a lb, sirloin £3.98 and fillet £6.18. For a lot less there are boneless lamb steaks which cost about £1 each and leg boneless steaks are about £2.32 a lb. Pork loin steaks are £2.55 and pork leg steaks £2.09.

Lamb prices generally are down, some cuts by as much as 10p a lb. Rump and sirloin steaks are also cheaper by 3p to 4p a lb.

The selection of meat on offer this weekend includes Presto home-produced lamb shoulders at 86p a lb, home-produced lamb leg at £1.58 and lamb chops at £1.88.

Safeway home-produced sirloin steak sells at £2.98 a lb and home-produced rump steak at £2.68. Tesco fresh pork chops are at £1.18 a lb and Bejams loin pork chops at 99p.

Correction

Sutcliffe Catering has not lost the state school catering contract for the Borough of Meriton as stated in Focus on Catering, January 20. Its contract has been renewed for four more years. The error arose because the Meals on Wheels contract (which was not under discussion) has gone to Catering by County.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Arabs convicted of Cyprus attack

Limassol, Cyprus (AP, Reuters) — Two Bahrainis were convicted by a court here yesterday of wounding a British soldier and a British teenage girl in an ambush said by the judge to have been "instigated by another country".

Judge Yiannakis Poyiadjis did not name the country, but the ambush, on April 20 last year, followed a 1986 attack on Britain's Akrotiri air base in southern Cyprus for which a pro-Libyan group claimed responsibility.

The court found Rashed Abdullah Salem, aged 23, and Saleh Ali al-Hamad, 25, guilty of conspiracy to kill and attempted murder. They will be sentenced today.

Corporal John Bailey, 35, of Stockton-on-Tees, and Linda Wilkinson, 15, of Littlehampton, were wounded in a four-mile chase. Corporal Bailey, who used a horse trailer he was towing to shield them, got the Queen's Commendation.

Reformist War game for Korea

Sofia — Bulgaria's party conference opened yesterday with a surprisingly vigorous call for reform by President Zhivkov (Richard Bassett writes). Mr Zhivkov, aged 76, dismissed recent speculation that he might step down by reaffirming Bulgaria's commitment to reform.

During his opening address yesterday, he insisted that Bulgaria's restructuring could never have been possible without recent developments in the Soviet Union. "What Bulgaria is doing today would have been unthinkable without changes in Moscow," he said.

SDI contract stopped

Albuquerque, New Mexico (AP) — The Pentagon has cancelled a \$480.6 million (£270 million) Star Wars contract with the McDonnell Douglas Astronautics company, citing cuts in the Strategic Defence Initiative budget. Lieutenant-Colonel Edwin Palmer, the chief Pentagon spokeswoman on the project, said yesterday: "We did a careful examination of the programme and had to make some hard decisions."

Officials at the Kirtland Air Force Base space technology centre, which oversaw the contract, said it was a key part of the Strategic Defence Initiative project. "At the time it was awarded, it was the largest single SDI contract and we believe it still is today," a spokesman said.

Abortion Tribute to law ruling astronauts

Ottawa — A law which limits a mother's right to have an abortion to situations in which her life is found to be in danger was struck down yesterday by the Supreme Court of Canada (John Best writes).

In a 5-2 decision, the tribunal ruled that the law violates Canadian guarantees of fundamental justice and security of the person. The court set aside a 1985 order of the Ontario Court of Appeal for a new trial of Dr Henry Morgentaler, acquitted by a lower court of conspiring to perform illegal abortions.

Kasparov under fire

Moscow — The official Soviet press yesterday launched its first open attack on Garry Kasparov, right, the volatile young Soviet world chess champion, after the recent publication in the West of his controversial autobiography *Child of Change* (Christopher Walker writes). Diplomatic observers noted that the strong criticism had been sanctioned despite his outspoken support for Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.



General admits excessive force by Israeli troops

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

The Israeli general in command of troops serving in the occupied West Bank admitted yesterday that "maybe too many" soldiers were continuing to use excessive force in order to control protests.

General Amram Mitzna also confessed that the work they were doing was damaging the men's fighting efficiency. Some soldiers, he said, were being court-martialed, while others were being shifted to different units. But he refused to give any exact figures.

Asked what the effect was on morale, he said: "I don't feel so well when I get up in the morning. I would rather see them on training exercises, I would rather prepare them for war. To some extent it has reduced our fighting potential. Instead of making preparations for a war, they are here.

What they are doing is not just a waste of time, it is damaging."

General Mitzna said that the men were confused by what they were doing. "It is not the policy or the order that is confusing, but the mission."

Going into the camps, chasing demonstrators, meant that they had to sort out who was the enemy and who was not. It was very difficult for men not trained to do this kind of job.

As demonstrations continued on a minor scale throughout the West Bank and Gaza yesterday, an organization referring to itself as the United National Leadership of the Uprising issued pamphlets calling for an escalation of the present scale of the demonstrations.

The previously unknown group, apart from printing the leaflets and issuing its appeal over the Voice of Jerusalem

Soviet Jews say presence of human rights monitors restrained police

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

One of the largest demonstrations by Jewish refuseniks ever seen in Moscow took place yesterday on the steps of the imposing Lenin Library. More than 100 chanting Soviet Jews, carrying placards demanding their right to emigrate, stood in sub-zero temperatures for nearly an hour.

Participants were surprised when plainclothes KGB officers and uniformed militia-men made no attempt to pursue their normal practice and break up the protest.

The protesters claimed that the reason for the change of heart was the presence at the demonstration of international human rights monitors, who are visiting Moscow for the first time this week as part of a Soviet attempt to improve the country's human rights image.

"The real test is not what happens while our group is here, but whether when we are gone the Soviet Union will live up to its obligations," said Professor Erwin Kotler, a Canadian member of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights.

Soviet office workers and shoppers appeared bemused by the demonstration, which took on a festive atmosphere, with the Jews chanting "Let my people go." "Give us our visas" and "Let us go to Israel," while the KGB men, some with still and video cameras, looked on.

"This is the first time so many of us have managed to demonstrate and the first time we have been able to do it without being beaten, arrested and told that Hitler should

have finished his work," said Mrs Judith Lurie, aged 45, who has been waiting for eight years to join her mother in Israel.

"My husband and I were given our visas, but they were revoked just before we were about to go at the same time as mother," Mrs Lurie said.

"The authorities claimed that my husband knew state secrets from the time he was a child," Mrs Lurie said. A leading Jewish refusenik has been granted permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union to the West after attempting for 14 years to leave. Professor Nakhim Saevich (Naim) Meiman, aged 80, recently learnt he had leukaemia.

Leading lights of the Vienna-based International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights are visiting the Soviet Union this week at the invitation of the Kremlin. But a Jewish group in London described the latest Soviet permission for emigration as a political move.

worked as a chemist 23 years ago. Most of the people here are being stopped by the secrets clause, but it is just an excuse with no bearing on reality."

As we were talking, two Soviet women began shouting obscene abuse at Mrs Lurie, claiming that she was being paid by the West to take part in the protest. Both were furious that the KGB men were taking no action beyond treating the protesters to glowering looks and the occasional insult.

After about 15 minutes of the protest, which began as planned at 1 pm, the demonstrators appeared lost for what to do next. There were no speeches and no focal point to their action, which followed the delivering of a protest letter to the Interior Ministry signed by 100 refuseniks who have had their visa requests turned down.

"The point is that we have never been allowed to demonstrate for this length of time before. Usually it is all over in five minutes or less," Mrs Lurie said. Like many of the protesters, she was wearing her slogan in the form of an over-vest in anticipation of it being ripped off by the KGB men. "Return our revoked visas and let us join mother in Israel," it said.

Professor Kotler, who has held talks with a number of senior Kremlin officials as well as dozens of dissidents, said: "The right to emigrate is a crucial part of the Helsinki Final Act. Had it not been included, the Canadian Government for one would have refused to sign it."

The professor said that the 19-strong delegation would not consider sanctioning Moscow's call for an international human rights conference here until it was certain that human rights were being respected.

"Just come back privately in a week's time and you will see a very different picture. These types will not just be standing idly by shouting the occasional insult. They will be attacking us," one of the demonstrators said.



Two of the Soviet Jews demanding exit visas at yesterday's peaceful protest in Moscow.

Shevardnadze says Afghan deadline may be put back

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, has spoken optimistically of the Geneva negotiations being "very close" to completing an Afghanistana peace pact, but at the same time cautioned that the Kremlin's timetable for withdrawing 115,000 troops may have slipped into 1989.

Mr Shevardnadze was addressing a rare impromptu press conference for a small group of American reporters who were among guests invited to a reception to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the first US-Soviet agreement on exchanges in culture, technology and education.

Mr Shevardnadze told the American correspondents that Pakistan and Afghanistan, who are due to resume proximity talks in Geneva under United Nations sponsorship, "are very close" to a final treaty, with all that remained outstanding being agreement on a timetable for the Soviet departure.

Pakistan has been arguing for an eight-month maximum for the withdrawal, while the Soviet Union has now promised to pull out its men in 12 months. But the Soviet side has made clear that it is prepared to reduce this if an adequate agreement on ending outside aid to the Muslim rebels can be achieved.

With an official translator at his side, the minister claimed that the Soviet Union could live with a fundamentalist Islamic regime in Afghanistan if such a government came to power after a Soviet pull-out. However, he discounted the possibility, noting that only a minority of those opposing the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah were Muslim extremists.

In a related development, Western sources in Moscow said that it had now been confirmed in Kabul that certain high-ranking members of the Afghan regime have been issued with special cards giving them access to certain Soviet installations in the city.

Observers here believe that the Soviet Union might be prepared to allow up to 3,000 Afghan sympathizers to seek refuge in the Soviet Union.

WASHINGTON: President Reagan has received overwhelming support for his efforts to cut strategic arms by half from a poll which also found that Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's popularity with Americans has continued to rise after the December summit.

The poll, part of a series called "Americans Talk Security" and conducted earlier this month by Market Opinion Research, found that many respondents still remained wary of the Russians. Some 64 per cent agreed with the statement that "if we are weak, the Soviet Union, at the right moment, will attack us or our allies in Europe and Japan."

Nuclear end game, page 14

Argentina contacts plan fails

By Andrew McEwen Diplomatic Correspondent

A year after Britain began exchanging secret indirect messages with Argentina, it has become clear the contacts are not achieving their aim.

Whitehall hoped that the two countries could leave the Falklands sovereignty issue on one side and begin a slow normalization of relations. But there is now a growing realization the plan will not work.

The latest exchange of messages, via the US State Department, dispelled hopes that Buenos Aires might be ready to allow British companies to do business in Argentina.

Some progress has been made on the issue of avoiding military clashes in South Atlantic fishing zones. But it is clear that Argentina wants no further normalization unless Britain agrees to talks on an open agenda.

The Whitehall view is that this will remain politically unthinkable for the foreseeable future because an open agenda would implicitly include sovereignty.

Mr George Foulkes, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, said yesterday: "They think they are in danger of giving the UK everything it wants on trade, moving towards normalization without Britain making any concessions."

He believes the Argentine Government would accept an arrangement similar to that reached with Spain over Gibraltar. Under the 1984 Brussels Agreement, British and Spanish ministers meet regularly.

BUENOS AIRES: The former Lieutenant Alejandro Maguire, who pointed a pistol at journalists last month and threatened to shoot them for taking pictures of him, has been dismissed from the Army.

A photograph of the incident had been taken by the independent news agency, Noticias Argentinas, and was published around the world.

Victims of apartheid

Police accused of boy's death

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Anti-apartheid activists said here yesterday that they suspected the South African police or their agents of involvement in the death of a black teenager whose body was found on a piece of open ground in Soweto with a bullet wound in the head.

The youth, Godfrey Siculo Dhlomo, aged 18, a member of the Soweto Students' Congress, which is an affiliate of the United Democratic Front (UDF) anti-apartheid movement, spoke of his fear of being assaulted by the police in a television documentary screened by the American CBS network last December.

Mr Adrian Vlok, the Minister of Law and Order, claimed at a political meeting on Wednesday that a CBS "film director" had told the youth what he should say. "He badly wanted the boy to tell the world how he was misused to spread lies about South Africa when he was murdered," the minister maintained.

Members of the Black Sash, a civil rights organization run by white women, attended the news conference and silently held up placards containing the names of 19 other opponents of apartheid who have disappeared or been murdered in mysterious circumstances over the past decade.

Black Sash lists spate of mysterious killings

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

The Black Sash civil rights organization have issued the following list of opponents of apartheid who have disappeared or been killed by unknown assailants in mysterious circumstances over the past decade:

1978: Richard Turner, a banned lecturer in political science at University of Natal. He was shot when he answered a knock at his door in Durban.

1981: Griffiths Mxenge, a Durban civil rights lawyer and former ANC member, who was found stabbed to death near sports stadium in Umhlang township. "Certain unknown persons" were blamed.

1982: Siphiwe Mtshulu, the national chairman of the Congress of South African Students. She disappeared while on her way to hospital for a check-up after being found to suffer from thallium poisoning.

1985: Sipho Hashe, Champion Golele, Qaqawuli Godolozzi, who were UDF activists in Port Elizabeth, vanished after receiving an urgent message to meet someone at the airport. Mkhonto Goniwe, Sparrow Mkhonto, Fort Calata and Siculo Mhlawuli, who were UDF activists in Eastern Cape. Their stabbed and charred bodies found in the bush not far from a gutted car in which they had left a UDF meeting.

codes of conduct, and all here yesterday that they recognized standards of journalism."

In the documentary, entitled *Children of Apartheid*, Mr Dhlomo told an interviewer that he had been tortured by the police and that he believed his life was in danger. His mother, Mrs Sylvia Jele, told reporters this week that her son was afraid of the police because they "once caught him and told him they would kill him."

At a news conference in Johannesburg yesterday, the Rev Frank Chikane, a leading figure in the UDF, said that Mr Dhlomo's death had "brought home the seriousness of the war against the people of South Africa by the apartheid regime". Unless the murderers were brought to book, he said, "we are bound to remain suspicious that the security forces are involved in one way or another in the murder of Siculo".

Mr Tom Goodman, a CBS spokesman in New York, yesterday denied Mr Vlok's allegation: "Under no circumstances does CBS instruct interviewees, or its interviewees in particular, as to what to say. Indeed, this would be contrary to all CBS

Victoria Mxenge, a civil rights lawyer, and the wife of Griffiths Mxenge, was found hacked to death outside her home.

1986: George De'Ath, an ITN cameraman. He was found hacked to death while filming fighting at Crossroads squatter camp near Cape Town. Dr Fabian Ribeiro and wife, Florence, both black activists, were shot at their Mamelodi home outside Pretoria. Eye-witnesses say one of killers was white man.

1987: Solomon Shabangu, a 19-year-old member of the Soweto Students' Congress, who was shot dead by three unknown assailants in front of a teacher and fellow students. Amos Tshabalala, a union organizer in Tsakane township in Transvaal, who was stabbed. Petrus Mntsi, a UDF activist in Sebokeng township, Transvaal, who was stabbed. Zakhe Mabanga, of the UDF, who was shot in dead at home of a relative in Waterval, Transvaal. His family claims that he was shot by black vigilantes in presence of security forces. Eric Mlonga, who worked in Eastern Cape for the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa. Was found stabbed in a car. The institute was founded by former white parliamentary opposition leader, Dr Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert.

Chilling TV spotlight on Monster of the Andes

From Geoffrey Matthews Quito, Ecuador

Nestling between South America's two most turbulent nations of Colombia and Peru, tiny Ecuador prides itself on being what makes Daniel Camargo Barbosa's actions here not merely an outrage, but a bloody sacrifice.

On the five-hour bus journey, through some of the most idyllic countryside in the Andes, from the Colombian frontier town of Ipiales to Quito, the Ecuadorian capital, it is chastening to think that Camargo once made the same trip. He presumably was unmoved by either the majestic beauty of the patchwork-quilt landscape or the gentle charm of the Indian villages.

Camargo came this way at the end of 1985. He was on the run, having just escaped from his native Colombia, where he was imprisoned for

rape and murder. Undoubtedly mad, but with a cunning intelligence, he soon reverted to bestial habits, but this time on an epic scale. Over the next 12 months, he butchered 72 women and girls.

Although he did most of his killing in rural communities near the port of Guayaquil, he was arrested in Quito when police questioned him

● In the year after escaping, he butchered 72 women and girls ●

about his bloodstained clothing. He had just claimed his last victim: a nine-year-old girl.

Under interrogation, he started to boast of his homicidal exploits and proceeded to lead innocents where he buried his victims. Autopsies were held, missing persons' files

revised, dental records checked. More than 50 corpses have been dug up, but nobody doubts Camargo's own body count of 72.

As in the rest of Latin America (except Chile, where President Pinochet revived it) capital punishment has long been abolished in Ecuador. However, many argued an exception should have been made in Camargo's case after his conviction last year.

Instead he is now serving a mere 16-year sentence, the maximum permitted under Ecuadorian law.

Relentless media coverage of what most observers agree has been a dull presidential campaign before the first round of voting on Sunday was dramatically interrupted by a televised news conference, starring the "Monster of the Andes". It provided the Ecuadorian public with their first real glimpse of Camargo.

The news conference was com-

vened by the authorities in an anguished attempt to bring the dreadful saga to an end, and in particular to rebut many of the victims' relatives' claims that Camargo — a slight man aged 57 — must have had accomplices.

The mother of one teenage victim said: "My daughter was a strong country girl for whom Camargo

● I am sorry that your daughter crossed my path, he said ●

alone would have been an insignificant rival."

The answer may be that Camargo first charmed his victims with his natural Colombian gift of the gab, before rendering them helpless by means of hypnosis.

Under the television lights, Camargo perspired but otherwise

remained controlled. Did he kill 72 females? "The police report says so," he shrugged, speaking in a dull monotone. But when asked about the accomplices, he said with pride: "I did it all myself."

Had he been conscious about what he had been doing? "Not exactly, but when one has been the victim of traumatic experiences in one's childhood, one grows up with the mental conditions for committing these acts."

This was the nearest he came to an explanation or contrition, except for a moment during his trial when he was confronted by a bereaved mother in the court precincts. "I am sorry your daughter crossed my path," he told her.

After the chill of Camargo's testimony, the dull uninspiring speeches of the aspirants in Sunday's election seemed almost soothing.

In 1987 Blue Arrow's sales increased by 80% in the U.K. alone.

In 1987 we became established in more than 30 countries worldwide.

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Drive for an identity

The sight of grown ups queuing on the forecourt for a free toy car epitomizes the way we buy petrol. This latest successor to free glasses, Green Shield stamps, coffee mugs and gardening tools, underlines that price and gimmicks are paramount for all but the unlucky motorist who runs low and is forced to take what he can get.

Petrol is never a talking point until it is suspected of being poor quality and damaging the engine. Drivers often switch brands only when they hear their engine produce the tinkling noise called "pinking". That aside, it is price and freebies which influence where we fill up.

Indeed, the motorist is right to think that petrol is much the same wherever it is bought. Major oil companies often exchange petrol, particularly in remote parts of the country where it is practical to

Shell came a cropper this week with its new petrol. But, as Daniel Ward explains, being different can be profitable

supply stations from the closest refinery.

Dr Ian Berrick, director general of the UK Petroleum Institute explains: "A particular engine at a particular time in its life could run better on a certain brand of petrol. The difference depends much more on the engine than the brand". This is the sort of

knowledge most drivers do not have.

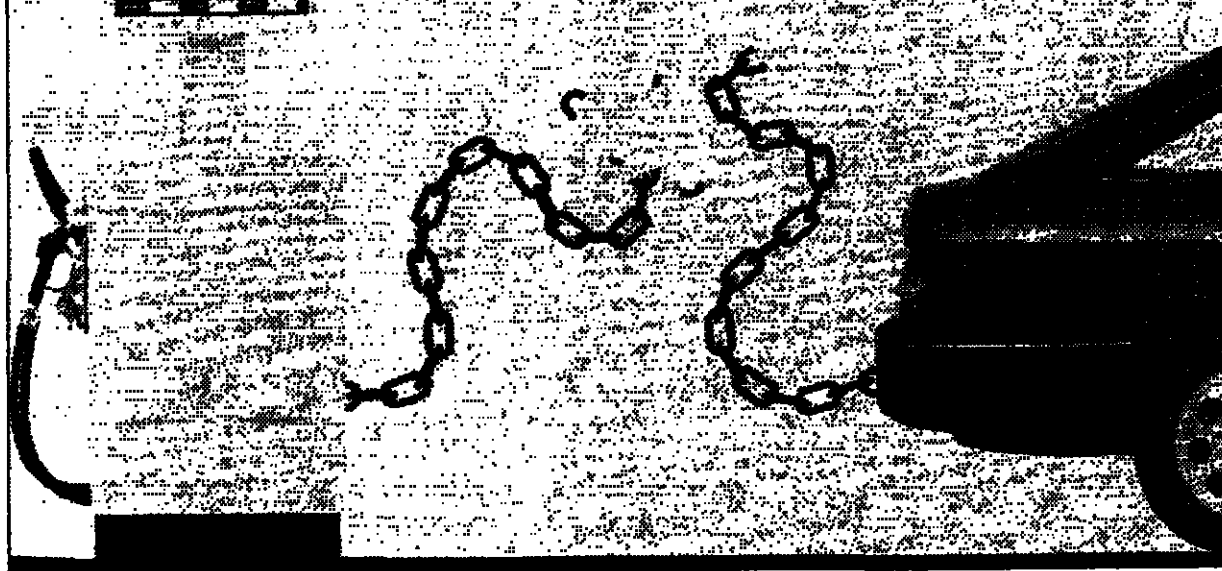
In the Sixties, when we were told "you can go further on Shell" and encouraged to "put a tiger in your tank" by Esso, the petrol *did* vary. Once set free from the wartime limitations of government-monitored "pool" petrol, oil companies experimented with chemical additives to improve economy, engine smoothness and performance.

The introduction of the star system and a British Standard for petrol in 1967 did much to level out the differences. Next came the two energy crises of the 1970s, followed by price wars when the big companies found themselves up against small independent operators.

Since then, it has taken almost a decade for the oil giants to evolve a strategy for a return to substantial profits. For most petrol companies this has meant improving

service on the forecourts. Shell, with 3,109 in the UK, has introduced a network of Traveller's Check stations which the chief executive, Bob Reid, claims are "the most attractive and welcoming in the country". And since the introduction of Formula Shell in May 1986, it has been stressing the uniqueness of its product to Britain's motorists.

Petrol hasn't changed in fifteen years Until today



WHAT GOES INTO A GALLON

Every normal gallon of petrol contains:

LEAD:

0.15 grammes per litre - it increases octane rating, curbs engine pinking.

LEAD SCAVENGERS:

Prevents the lead sticking inside the engine.

OCTANE BOOSTER:

Methyl tertiary butyl ether or tertiary amyl methyl ether, it raises octane.

DETERGENT:

Keeps carburettor free from sticky deposits.

ANTI-ICING:

Stops vaporization in carburettor which can form ice.

FUEL INJECTOR DEPOSIT CONTROL:

Stops glues forming in the engine injectors.

ANTI-OXIDANT:

Stops premature ageing of petrol in storage.

Unique selling point: how Formula Shell (left) launched the idea of a different petrol

hydrocarbon chemicals in which the individual properties are juggled to meet economy and performance criteria and the legal octane rating - a measure of the energy in the petrol.

Lead has traditionally been used as a cheap octane booster. But from January 1986, the Government stipulated this must be reduced in preparation for the move to a standard European fuel. To reduce the lead level the oil companies have spent £400 million in Britain modifying their refineries.

Using less lead has meant that the quality of the basic petrol is better than ever. Chemical additives are only a few parts per million and make a small difference - but less than the oil companies would like us to think.

What Shell tried to do was find new additives. Formula Shell used a potassium-based "spark-aider" which increased the speed of the flame from the spark plug. At a strength of just five parts per million, it improved economy and made the engine smoother when ticking over.

Also included was a new detergent which was found to keep the surfaces of the carburettor and engine valves clean. The marketing men felt they at last had the advantage.

Bruce Haines, managing director of Leagas Delaney, which handles the advertising for Shell's competitor Mobil, says: "We were in the process of conducting research for our clients when the Shell story broke. Consumers felt confused about the Shell product but were not discouraged

about the basic concept of one petrol being better than another.

British motorists, unused to being told petrol was different, were subjected to massive publicity as the company launched Formula Shell at a cost of £6 million. But the path of an innovator is not easy and there was early criticism of pinking.

The switch to reduced lead levels had caught some car makers out as they discovered how easily their engines pinking, while Shell was a little too close to the legal octane minimum on petrol from one of its refineries. This was quickly put right, but then there were reports of some cars suffering from inlet valves stuck open.

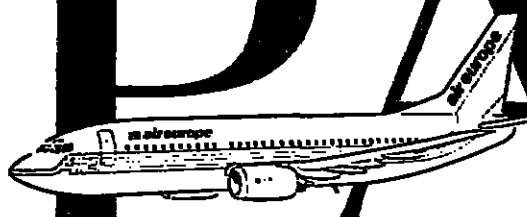
In Britain, 400 Vauxhalls were affected and up to 1,500 cars in both Norway and Denmark. Car manufacturers can recall new models without undue loss of trade, but Shell was not so fortunate and the reports of problems hit sales.

The chiefs bit hard and announced Formula Shell was dead. One executive from a rival firm said: "No one in the industry is overjoyed. Formula Shell helped all of us to alert the motorist to the difference between brands".

The car manufacturers are equally upset. Austin Rover's director of powertrain engineering, Sivert Hiljemark, says: "It's unfortunate that the problem with the spark-aider has meant the loss of the whole additive package because the use of high quality detergents is something we want to encourage".

Meanwhile, the rest of the industry mopes on the perils of making a better petrol.

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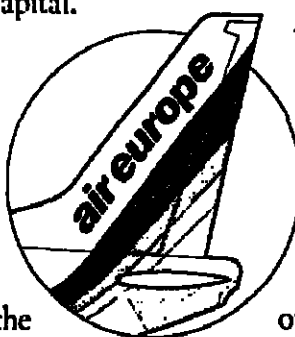
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ROUTES TO BE INTRODUCED IN 1988: FROM GATWICK - BRUSSELS - AMSTERDAM - FRANKFURT - ROME - ZURICH - GENEVA - COPENHAGEN

FINDINGS

A weekly series on research

ZOOLOGY

Many plant species have evolved chemical defences to prevent herbivorous animals from eating them. One class of compounds, tannins, are widespread in nature. They act by binding chemically to protein and preventing its digestion. Many species of wild deer eat the leaves and shoots of trees, a high-tannin diet. In a recent paper, Charles Robbins and his colleagues at Washington State University suggest that wild deer are able to produce compounds in their saliva which bind to tannins and make them harmless. In other words, the deer appear to have evolved chemical defences of their own. Tea drinkers can take comfort: human saliva is also apparently rich in compounds that can cope with tannins. *Andrew London*

PUBLIC OPINION

Most children have had their first visit to the dentist by the age of three, according to the 1985 General Household Survey, recently published by HMSO. But 7 per cent of 15-year-olds have still never vis-

ited a dentist outside school. Most children were last at the dentist for a check-up rather than because of dental trouble. Trends suggest parents are becoming more cautious about their children's teeth: in 1973, 47 per cent of five-year-olds last attended a dentist for the purpose of a check-up; by 1985 this had risen to 73 per cent. *Robert Worcester*

CHEMISTRY

Polymer technology could save millions of precious books, manuscripts and maps, slowly disintegrating in libraries around the world. The Industrial Chemistry Group at Surrey University, working on behalf of the British Library, has devised a revolutionary polymer treatment process. Whole books are placed in a reaction chamber to which gaseous ethyl acrylate and methyl methacrylate are added. When the chemicals have diffused among the pages, gamma rays are used to polymerize them. The polymer is deposited on and between the paper fibres on each page. Tests show that the strength of the paper is increased up to tenfold while photographs and worn bindings suffer no damage. *Malcolm Smith*

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1475

ACROSS

- 1 Jerk back (6)
- 4 Tension (6)
- 7 Put down (4)
- 8 Strive (8)
- 9 Jean-Baptiste Poquelin (7)
- 11 Ward off (5)
- 12 Delft interiors painter (6,2,5)
- 15 Friend (5)
- 16 Refrain (7)
- 20 Religion deserter (8)
- 21 Common sense (4)
- 22 Manual grass cutter (6)
- 23 Cheap, showy (6)

DOWN

- 1 Pickled herring (7)
- 2 Cold (5)
- 3 High-tech beam (5)
- 4 Certain (4)
- 5 "Scouring of Christ" painter (2,5)
- 6 Perspire (5)
- 10 Foe (5)
- 11 Dull pains (5)
- 13 Thrift (7)
- 14 Truthfulness (7)
- 15 Great confusion (5)
- 17 Gear noise (5)
- 18 Shun (5)
- 19 Naked (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1474

ACROSS: 1 Racket 4 Anthem 9 Burnish 10 Baron 11 Scum 12 Routine 14 Earthenware 18 Panacea 19 Lose 22 Essay 24 Narrative 25 Drafts 26 Agency
DOWN: 1 Robe 2 Carve 3 Enigmatic 5 Nub 6 Harrier 7 Manager 8 Charlemagne 11 See 13 Unwilling 15 Amnesia 16 Eye 17 Append 20 Skin 21 Rely 23 Yet

12/10/1988

Record profits. Up 233%.

Dividend up 100%.

Earnings per share up 57%.

All this didn't happen by accident. As Chairman Tony Berry says, "Success can only come about through better identification of opportunities and better exploitation of them." In short, better management. He appears to have proven his point.



TIMES DIARY

VIRGINIA
BOTTOMLEY

Love of my Daughters is not the way in which the gallant and popular Father of the House, Sir Bernard Braine, refers to his two daughters. These were the terms in which he addressed the shadow overseas aid spokesman, Joan Lester, who had respectfully introduced him as Father. The interchange took place during the Unicef dinner at the House of Commons following the opening of the exhibition, *Unicef - Working for Child Survival*. André Robert, chief of planning at the Unicef Middle East Office, spoke movingly about the remarkable ceasefire negotiated last year in Lebanon when 27 Unicef staff members, with 5,000 volunteers, managed to immunize 90 per cent of the under-fives. It offers a model for what can be achieved in hotspots to protect children, who are the true victims and hostages of such situations.

With record government assistance for Unicef this year and the participation of Rotary Clubs and others in the Polio-Plus campaign, the aim is to immunize all the world's children by 1990 against the six killer diseases: measles, whooping cough, TB, polio, diphtheria and tetanus.

The Foreign Office is coming to the end of an era. Even in that centre of discreet, effective diplomacy few register the growing significance of the contribution made by that relatively new breed of Whitehall animal, the special adviser. John Houston leaves after four years to join Malmgren, Golt and Kingston, the Anglo-American trade consultancy, as an associate director. Houston's Ulster background and formidable EEC and Conservative Research Department experience earned him respect from all quarters. A senior official described him as "a model of his kind". The special adviser will really have arrived when that distinguished diplomat, Sir Nicholas Henderson, revises his authoritative text, *The Private Office*, to include the role.

The wine was French, the water Thames, at lunch in the Oak Room with Roy Watts and Sir Christopher Leaver, the heads of Thames Water. The Thames variety costs 0.18p a litre compared with around 60p a litre for Perrier water. The New River Company, now Thames Water, was a 17th century private venture set up to bring fresh water to London from springs in Hertfordshire.

Despite reservations about a national rivers authority chairman, Watts, was the early and effective advocate of the basic policy of water privatization. Indeed, Thames Water alone of the 10 water authorities in England and Wales expects to be clear of external debt this year to the tune of £98 million. I must check the cost of our Mid-Southern Water Company's costs per litre at today's board meeting in Frinton.

BARRY FANTONI



A disproportionate amount of time has been given to preparing the "Reply for the Ladies" speech for tonight's delayed Burns Night supper in Haslemere, a constituency event of the highest quality. Recitations, pipers, songs, culinary delights and more than a touch of tartan have all been painstakingly prepared by the Lythe Hill Hotel and by the splendid organizer of this event, James Mackie, also director-general of the Grain and Food Trade Association. Can an MP, struggling with piles of constituency correspondence and contributions to life at Westminster, find the time and ability to respond in a fitting manner to the memory of Scotland's greatest poet and best-loved son?

My coup de grace will be the revelation, that like 17 other colleagues, I was born in Scotland. Twice as many Tory MPs born in Scotland hold English and Welsh seats as Scottish ones, according to Labour spokesman Frank Dobson, in a recent debate on the Scottish Affairs Select Committee.

The circumstances of my birth in Dunoon were not altogether propitious. My mother was offered kippers for breakfast rather than the English boiled egg. It left a lasting scar. She resisted pressure from the nurses to call me Jeannie - Ginny may suffice. My parents were staying with a great uncle, Dr Louis Richardson FRS, Quaker, pacifist and principal of Paisley Technical College. He did not live to see the Polaris base established there.

His major achievement was to formulate, in the trenches of the First World War, the formulae necessary for weather forecasting. The drawback was that the calculations took a month to complete or required the Albert Hall to be filled with statisticians to undertake the work. With the introduction of computers his work came into his own.

Politicians often have views about television. On Monday LWT invited MPs to cross the Thames to learn about them. I did watch *That's Life* last Sunday, after celebrating the fifth anniversary of Farnham's Gulshan tandoori restaurant. It caused me to reflect that a roads minister's lot is not always a happy one. I saw Esther Rantzen suggest that our minister was faint-hearted in his approach to drinking and driving. Perhaps someone should introduce her to Auberon Waugh.

Tomorrow: Simon Barnes

The kidnapping of a West German engineer in Beirut this week, coupled with Bonn's admission that its actions have been influenced by Arab terrorist threats, points to the conclusion advanced so often by Mrs Thatcher, and rather less often by other European leaders: that giving in to terrorists encourages further crimes. This week's events, coming after France's hostages deal last month, leave the painstakingly constructed common EEC front against terrorism so full of holes it may be about to collapse.

The European fight against foreign terrorism is a difficult area, in which simple principles tend to be overshadowed by complex issues of foreign policy. But the issue is simple at heart. Until last September there were two West German hostages in Lebanon, Alfred Schmidt of the electronics company Siemens and Rudolf Cordes of the chemicals company Hoechst. When Schmidt was released, Bonn denied any deal had been done. But then the kidnappers released a curiously worded statement suggesting that West Germany had given certain "guarantees",

and there were reports that money had changed hands through third parties.

Given that Cordes remained a hostage the key question then became how firm would Bonn be in putting on trial the two Hamadi brothers, one accused of taking part in the kidnappings, and the other of murdering a US marine during the hijacking of a TWA jet three years ago.

At the trial in Düsseldorf of the former brother this week, Wolfgang Schäuble, Chancellor Kohl's right-hand man in anti-terrorism, admitted that Bonn had refused to extradite to the US the Hamadi brother involved in the TWA incident because it had feared the consequences for German hostages in Beirut. No sooner had the words left Schäuble's mouth than Ralph Schray, a German-

born engineer, was seized in Beirut in a kidnapping apparently organized by a third Hamadi brother.

There may be no direct link between Schäuble's admission and the fate of Schray, but there certainly is between the latest outrage and the Düsseldorf trial itself. The aim is to intimidate Bonn further. West Germany now has two hostages in Lebanon again, and the release of Schmidt six months ago has gained it nothing.

Where does this leave attempts by the EEC to defeat international terrorism? European governments have proved able to neutralize, even defeat, home-grown terrorists in their own countries - Action Directe in France, the Red Army Faction in Germany, the CCC ("Fighting Communist Cells") in Belgium.

But the kind of co-ordination between European security and police services which proved effective against indigenous terrorism has not, on the whole, dealt with foreign-inspired acts of violence.

The London EEC summit in December 1986 bound all member states not to make concessions to terrorists under duress, and not to have dealings with terrorists. "For their sponsors". But it has proved difficult to identify Iran, Libya, Syria or any other state with particular terrorist acts. The US bombing of Tripoli galvanized the Community into action on the grounds that diplomatic sanctions were preferable to military ones, and shortly afterwards European sanctions were imposed on Syria for its part in the El Al incident at Heathrow.

Yet those sanctions have been softened, with Bonn leading the way, and Britain alone arguing that more proof is needed that Damascus no longer promotes terrorist acts.

Last month France shocked British opinion by trading an Iranian diplomat in Paris suspected of terrorism for two French hostages in Lebanon, amid reports of a financial deal between Paris and Tehran. Arguably, the French had themselves taken a "hostage" as a negotiating card, since Walid Girdji, the Iranian diplomat, was in effect imprisoned inside the Iranian embassy. Voices were then raised in Britain asking whether, since co-operation was cracking, we should not follow Germany and France and come to terms with the kidnappers of Terry Waite and others. After all, the

French and Germans had at least got their people out.

However, there are still four French hostages in Lebanon, and presumably further releases require further deals, perhaps with the price - political or financial - going up. The question now is whether Britain will seek to persuade its European partners that their policy has failed.

At the Copenhagen EEC summit in December Mrs Thatcher still argued that the only way to beat terrorists was not to give in to their demands, but avoided a confrontation with Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister. She accepted his assurances that Community policy had not been undermined and even thanked him for co-operation against the IRA.

The impending European summit in Brussels on February 11 will show whether the Prime Minister, who is at the moment seeking "clarification" of the latest developments from Bonn, can still avoid a showdown, or whether the cracks in the facade of the European anti-terrorist policy are so beyond repair that she feels there is no point in containing her anger.

Richard Owen on the sorry state of Europe's 'united front'

Have the terrorists won?

Moscow's nuclear endgame

David Owen



In the late 1970s it became clear to us in the West that a radical group was emerging from within the KGB which was arguing to change the artificial, centralized and bureaucratic methods of conducting Soviet economic and foreign policy. They were not liberals, but hard-headed realists who recognized that the Soviet Union was losing ground to the West, failing to deliver economic prosperity at home and failing to deliver political advantage abroad. Evidence began to emerge that they were not only bending the ear of their political chief in the KGB, then Yuri Andropov, but that he was, surprisingly, sympathetic to their analysis.

When Leonid Brezhnev died and Andropov succeeded him, a shift in Soviet attitudes became apparent. But the changes were cautiously implemented and the pace slowed by Andropov's illness and virtually stopped during the short tenure of Konstantin Chernenko. We should never forget that Mikhail Gorbachev was Andropov's choice as his successor. The danger of depicting the Gorbachev era as the state of *perestroika*, *glasnost*, and now *demokratizatsia*, is that one under-estimates the continuity of policy; under-estimates the degree to which the Gorbachev reforms are still running with the tide of received wisdom in Moscow within the KGB.

As yet, there has been no sign that the KGB as a whole is disillusioned with the Gorbachev package. In a sense, why should they be? Reconstruction, with its emphasis on decentralization and greater accountability, is aimed at increasing Soviet wealth, without which the worldwide projection of Soviet Communism will for ever be stunted. More public discussion of ideas and information is a small price to pay in a closed society if it generates economic growth. Democratization, provided it is strictly limited, as it is, to increasing the citizen's interest and involvement in the political process, need not challenge the power structures of Soviet society.

Of course, the KGB is watching the whole exercise like a

hawk, only too well aware that it could feed fissiparous tendencies, and start to challenge the basis of its power. But provided the process is carefully controlled the KGB believes that the new style is beneficial in pursuing its major foreign policy objectives: namely the denuclearization of Europe on Soviet terms, and the extension of Soviet influence in Third World countries.

Suddenly, Soviet propaganda is being conducted with all the armory of modern public relations and in Gorbachev it has a spokesman that Madison Avenue envies, putting even that old pro, Ronald Reagan, in the shade. Western Europe must, therefore, be on its guard. We are right to welcome the Gorbachev economic reform package and his willingness to negotiate seriously over nuclear arms control. But we would be crazy to believe that there has been any weakening in the long-standing Supreme Soviet objective of retaining its own nuclear weapons while persuading the rest of Europe to become a nuclear-free zone. All

the signs are that the Soviet Union is pursuing that objective now with an unparalleled single-mindedness and virtuosity.

At any moment, we can expect a Soviet initiative proposing extensive reductions in conventional weaponry. Bulldozers in the full glare of the world's television cameras may soon be let loose on the Berlin Wall. Eduard Shevardnadze has already felt able, in Bonn of all places, to tell us that Moscow would never permit NATO to fulfil its intention, announced well in advance of the INF agreement, to modernize some of its existing nuclear armaments. It is imperative that Britain and France assert that we and we alone will determine that level of minimum nuclear deterrence which we feel necessary to protect our vital interests. Of course, we have to take account of reduced US and Soviet nuclear forces, but we will make the final judgement, not the Soviet Union.

To accept the denuclearization of Europe while the Soviet Union, itself a European power,

retains anything like the nuclear arsenal which will still be present, even after a 50 per cent Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with the US, would be a grave foreign policy mistake.

The Soviet Union, sensing a deep ambivalence on all matters relating to nuclear weapons from the Federal Republic of Germany, is exploiting it by linking denuclearization of the two Germanies with a possible reluctant acceptance of reunification. It is a tempting ploy. As yet, only France has sensed the critical importance of the issue. Yet France is not as ready to recognize that it itself holds the key as to whether or not West Germany succumbs to Soviet temptation. There can be no doubt that were France to deploy its conventional forces forward on the Central Front, there would be no political party in Germany which would not accept as a necessary linkage continued stationing of nuclear weapons in Germany.

We all need a new Western European defence initiative that channels the present Soviet dip-

lomatic offensive into more acceptable avenues. It should signal a readiness to treat the need for the modernization of nuclear artillery, Lance missiles and fireball nuclear bombs separately. Each category raises different issues. NATO should be ready to discuss the case for not proceeding with the modernization of nuclear artillery, and even Lance missiles, were there to be substantive reductions in Warsaw Pact conventional armories. Yet neither Britain, France, nor the United States should even contemplate giving up the introduction of stand-off air-launched nuclear missiles in the place of fireball nuclear bombs.

Western European nations must now indicate, in advance of any further US-Soviet discussions, that they intend to continue as at present and for the foreseeable future with manned aircraft carrying nuclear weapons; that these aircraft will operate from airfields in West Germany, Belgium, Holland, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom. Strong reaffirmation

of this, perhaps taken collectively within the context of the WEU, will send the message loud and clear to the Soviet Union. We in West Europe will not accept a denuclearization of our part of Europe while the Soviet Union, itself part of East Europe, remains a nuclear weapon state.

NATO should not exclude, and indeed could benefit from, discussions over a possible nuclear-free corridor no wider than 150km on either side of the East-West border. I first suggested such a corridor as a confidence-building measure to the Palme Commission in 1981. It was endorsed only after careful consideration by the commission, including Cyrus Vance, the then US Secretary of State. Major airfields in the Central Front from which nuclear aircraft presently operate would lie outside the corridor, and indeed, the corridor was deliberately designed so that nuclear weapons would continue to be deployed on the West German territory.

Two other decisions are needed. The existing integrated command structure of NATO should be explicitly reviewed to make it possible for France to henceforth deploy forward its conventional forces into the Central Front. The United States should also make it clear that it welcomes Anglo-French co-operation on the extended version of the French stand-off missile ASMP to be deployed on Tornado aircraft as well as the Mirage.

The Soviet Union would then know that the United States could not be played off against Western Europe in future arms control negotiations over nuclear weapons systems stationed in Europe. If the US would make available Stealth technology, and even involve itself to the extent of declaring a willingness to consider deploying such an Anglo-French missile on their F-11s in Europe rather than its own missiles, so much the better.

It is hard to exaggerate the need for a decisive response to the Soviet Union's pressure for the denuclearization of Europe on its terms.

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

The bigot's charter

I was one of those who signed the declaration calling upon the House of Lords to "look carefully" at Clause 28 of the Local Government Bill, which prohibits local authorities from "promoting" homosexuality or schools from teaching its "acceptability" and a "pretended family relationship". Like the other signatories I am concerned about the vague wording of the clause and the scope that it would give to the bigots and the bully-boys to censor the arts. It could be the beginning of a vile and brutal censorship imposed by those for whom I have no respect. I don't want these people telling me, or anyone else, what books I can read, and I don't want them choosing the plays and films that I can see.

Equally important is my anxiety that the enactment of the clause will encourage an authoritarian intolerance that will lead credence and support to the developing backlash against homosexual men and lesbians. I don't, of course, believe that either of these are the intended consequences of the promoters of the clause. But then they have no control over it once it becomes law, just as those who promulgated the Official Secrets Act in 1911 never dreamt that it could or would be used against journalists seeking to serve the national interest.

In one sense the damage has already been done. Whatever the Lords and Parliament decide, the fact that such a proposal has already been sanctioned by the House of Commons and legitimized by having the support of the Government has given respectability to attacks on homosexuals. The backlash is in

full swing. It is evidenced by the results of the Harris Poll conducted for Independent Television's *Weekend World* showing that 43 per cent of those asked disapproved of homosexual relations between consenting adults.

It is demonstrated by the unashamedly racist debate in the Church of England and the bizarre and equivocal decision of its Synod that homosexuality "falls short of the ideal". It shows by the light of Dame Elaine Kellert-Bowman speaking in the House of Commons of the need for the "tolerance of evil". And it exists in the most extreme and cowardly form in the increasing number of violent attacks on homosexual men and lesbians at their clubs and advice centres.

No doubt some of this has been fuelled by the fear of Aids. The pandemic has created a new stamping ground for the irredeemably prejudiced. It provides an extra weapon and an apparent justification for limitations to be imposed on deviant behaviour. But it also has to be said that many homosexuals bear a heavy responsibility for the current nasty atmosphere and for the future threat. It is they who have deliberately and provocatively adopted a militantly high public profile, who have aggressively paraded their lifestyle and who seem to enjoy the resultant shock and relish the public distaste.

They are entitled to do all this. There is no doubt about that. But when they do it they should not expect to be liked, loved or even respected as a result.

They should be aware that such petulant behaviour, such

aggressive and self-confident posturing upsets and offends many people who respect but do not share their sexual preferences. It is pointless, counter-productive, impolite, unnecessary and downright discourteous to thrust their sexuality and their social and economic demands and their lifestyle in everyone else's face.

To go further and insist in studiously strident tones that homosexuality is as good, if not better, a way of life than heterosexual relationships, that it is just as "normal", and to attack those like the liberal and decent former Labour MP for Fulham, Nick Raynsford, for committing the sex crime of having a photograph of his wife and children in his election address, is politically suicidal.

To go on to insist, as many did, and still do, that homosexuality should be promoted in schools, is asking for trouble, big trouble. Of course it is. Any sensible and reasonable person can see that. And trouble is what they've got. The only remarkable thing is that the backlash has taken so long and that, fortunately, it is still reasonably muted.

We must not let it grow stronger. That it has been caused by the unreasonable behaviour of a few extremist activists is now beside the point. We shall all suffer if it is allowed to gather voice and momentum, just as we do from the restrictions on our liberties caused by laws passed to deal with the minority of football hooligans, drunken drivers, or knife-wielders.

So now it is our battle: to preserve the liberties and the tolerance abused by a few, but which are the right of us all.

Spinning tops

The discovery of another rapidly spinning radio star has raised important questions about the origin of these objects. The stars are called pulsars ("pulsating stars") on account of the regular bursts of radio waves they emit.

Although more than 200 pulsars have been found since the first discovery, at Cambridge, 20 years ago, the new object, spinning 25 times a second, is among the fastest so far found. Although not the fastest known pulsar, the new star brings to 10 the list of pulsars spinning more than 10 times a second. A group of American radio-astronomers reports the discovery in the January 7 issue of *Nature*.

Two decades of research have shown that pulsars are incredibly dense objects - about as massive as the Sun but as small as 10 miles across or less. Most are formed in the explosion of stars reaching the ends of their lives as incandescent objects like the Sun.

The pulsar is what is left of the core of such an exploded star, called a supernova. The core literally collapses under its own weight, when the pressure is too great for matter to resist as ordinary atoms. The rapid rotation arises as the stars collapse, exactly as spinning ice-skaters rotate more quickly when they fold their arms. Debris from the outer layers of the star forms a cloud of gas sometimes visible as a nebula. The Crab nebula is a familiar example.

The new pulsar has been



found in a nebula called CTB80, about 6,000 light years away. The astronomers detected pulses of radio waves arriving every 40-thousandths of a second with metronomic regularity. Their search was prompted by suggestions that the CTB80 might be the debris of a supernova seen in the year 1408 and recorded by ancient astronomers without the benefit of telescopes.

The steadiness of the pulsation is remarkable, with hardly any variation of the radio pulses from one to the next. Like other pulsars, the new object is losing speed with the passage of time, but very slowly. If it were used as a clock, the spinning star would lose only a fifth of a micro-second (a millionth of a sec-

ond) every year. This slowing down comes about because the rapidly spinning star, which carries a very strong magnetic field, acts like a giant dynamo, creating electromagnetic forces which throw material outwards from the star's surface at nearly the speed of light, generating a pencil of radio waves which, sweeping across the sky like a lighthouse beam, seems like pulses on the Earth.

From 11 days' observation last summer, the US astronomers say that the new pulsar must be less than about 100,000 years old, but possibly much younger. One puzzle is that the magnetic field, even though it is a million million times stronger than the Earth's, seems to be weaker than on other fast pulsars.

The new pulsar also seems to be moving quickly across the sky (at 300 km a second). That the nebula CTB80 contains a pulsar seems evidence that a supernova really did occur there. But CTB80 is irregular in shape, and is generally not what is expected of a 579-year-old supernova nebula.

So the discoverers suggest that the pulsar was actually born elsewhere, but has wandered across the sky to its present position. Along the way it has swept up a quantity of gas and dust and has thereby manufactured its own nebula. If correct, this will be the first proof that pulsars can acquire nebulae in that way.

DAVID LINDLEY



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TESTS OF JUSTICE

It is perhaps difficult for people on this side of the Irish Sea fully to recognize the strength of feeling which the case of the "Birmingham Six" has roused in the Republic of Ireland and parts of Northern Ireland. Partly because of the sheer longevity of the campaign on the men's behalf, partly because of the distinction of the public figures who supported the case for reconsideration, it became the focus of powerful emotions and interest. In short, it is seen in Ireland as a "test case" of the entire British legal system.

It was nothing so broad: if it was a test of anything, it was a test of the appeal process. If an appeal to the House of Lords is allowed, that may not be complete. It was not a test of government clemency — which can hardly now be exercised in the wake of such an extensive rehearsal before judges. Having been asked for so long to reconsider the evidence, the court has now pronounced. In the legal process, there is left only the option of yet higher review.

It might well have suited British diplomacy and policy in Northern Ireland for the Lord Chief Justice and his colleagues to have come to a different decision, but they have taken their own course. The ensuing rows — there was simultaneous argument about British criminal justice in the Dáil, the House of Commons and at the Old Bailey yesterday afternoon — are more about politics than law.

It has occasionally been suggested in the Irish Republic that the Hillsborough Agreement might have some influence on the outcome of cases of this kind. Since judges in both countries would not wish or countenance any such thing, the sooner that delusion is laid to rest, the better. To his credit, Mr Haughey, while attacking the British Government on other grounds in the Dáil yesterday, made no attempt to link a decision by judges with a disagreement between governments.

The Agreement does, however, allude to building confidence in criminal justice and

policing in Northern Ireland. The materials with which this confidence is built are political decisions about systems and structures which are the proper subject of debate and democratic decision. And it is in the sensitive area of political discretion that the Government has made a grievous error which will heighten the diplomatic tensions inevitable in the wake of the Appeal Court judgment.

Yesterday, the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr King, appeared to promise a further inquiry into the issues raised by the Stalker-Sampson investigations into the killings of suspects by Royal Ulster Constabulary officers in 1982. It was an ambivalent and nebulous statement, which is due to be further amplified in a few days' time. What is required, instead, is a firm statement from the Government that there is no form of counter-terrorist activity, whether by the police, Army or intelligence services, which is wholly beyond the reach of inspection by external authority.

Mr Stalker, by the end of his leadership of the investigation (and perhaps Mr Sampson after him), believed that there had been corruption of the use of secrecy — a contention on which the Government urgently requires an authoritative second opinion. To clear the air, that judgement needs to disclose a good deal more than a checklist of disciplinary findings; some more extensive revelation must be possible without further risk.

A society defending itself against a conspiracy of violence must be ready to do more than meet force with force when it is necessary to do so. It must be ready to defend itself against the insidious doubt which can be sown in the minds of the public if the forces upholding the law appear to be beyond it and out of reach of any other form of accountability into the bargain. In the Appeal Court those forces were rendered accountable. In the "shoot-to-kill" cases, that settlement is yet to be made.

THROUGH THE TRADE GLOOM

The monthly trade figures released yesterday completed a year of steady deterioration in Britain's balance of payments. Figures for a single month do not themselves tell a great deal, though, as it turns out, the deficit of £582 million on current account in December was considerably worse than the markets expected. But the quarterly figures show a steady worsening through 1987 — from a surplus of nearly £600 million in the first quarter to a deficit of approaching £1.5 billion in the final quarter. The prospect of a deficit of up to £6 billion this year if the fourth quarter trend were to be reproduced for 1988 as a whole is disturbing.

Markets were remarkably sanguine about the figures, the pound and shares recovering quickly from their initial stumble, and there are certainly reasons for not taking alarm too quickly. During the years of maximum oil surplus Britain has built up the second biggest stock of overseas assets in the world, exceeded only by Japan. Although the privately-held part is not likely to be available to finance a current-account deficit, they add significantly to confidence in sterling.

The British economy has also been growing faster than the rest of the developed world's. In these circumstances some temporary increase in the trade deficit must be expected as the world's exporters compete for a slice of one of the few rapidly-growing markets. From the point of view of better balance in world trade as a whole a bigger UK deficit may be acceptable, and even necessary, if it is the counterpart to an improvement in the US trade balance.

The composition of the trade figures is also reassuring. Import volume in the latest three months rose by 3.5 per cent, excluding oil and erratic items, compared with an increase of only 1.5 per cent in exports. But the boom in imports has at least as much to do with industry re-equipping itself as with insatiable

demand in the high streets. Imports of capital equipment and intermediate goods have been rising rapidly; these are imports which in due course will lead to exports.

From recent evidence a pattern is beginning to build up of a modest reduction in consumer demand, coupled with continued buoyancy in industry. Consumer spending levelled off in the final quarter of last year and Christmas was not as good as some of the bigger stores had hoped. But the latest quarterly survey of industrial trends from the Confederation of British Industry earlier this week showed remarkably few signs of lower orders or lower output, though there was a sharp drop in export confidence because of the more competitive dollar.

As the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, prepares his Budget he will need to pick his way carefully through the mass of evidence and weigh up to what extent the economy is slowing down from its recent rapid growth. A temporary balance-of-payments deficit can be sustained without damaging confidence even if it rises to several billion pounds. But a structural deficit which showed no sign of diminishing even when other countries' economies speeded up and Britain's slowed down, as happened in the 1970s, would be a different matter.

Fortunately, there are signs that domestic demand is slowing and that British industry is preparing itself, through investment and increased productivity, to compete more effectively in world markets. But the steep deterioration in the balance of payments last year underlines the need for caution in determining the level of borrowing in the Budget. Happily there is a good prospect that Mr Lawson will be able to eliminate the borrowing requirement altogether and produce a balanced Budget while still making worthwhile cuts in tax rates.

PROMISE FROM MR HURD

The Home Secretary adopted a tone of the sweetest reasonableness when he spoke about official secrecy on BBC radio last night. He carefully identified three notional categories of official information, two of which remove the criminal secrets law from the great bulk of Whitehall activity and a third aimed at the genuine protection of the security service and national defence. Why, then, was there no inkling of this a fortnight ago, when Mr Hurd was made to appear most unreasonable before the House of Commons?

It is possible that he prefers the common-room calm of Radio Four to the parliamentary bear garden. There was less chance on radio that he would be forced further than he wanted to go.

There is a more plausible reason in the extent to which Mr Richard Shepherd's private member's bill for secrets reform had been allowed to become a test of governmental authority. An arena had been created within which any indication by the Government of its own thinking would have been seized as a concession.

Perhaps, having passed his test — at the cost of ruffled feathers among backbenchers — Mr Hurd now feels free to relax and think aloud and, as it turns out, conjecture legislative change along principles similar to those of Mr Shepherd. One of these is that a large volume of governmental work does not need the protection of the criminal law. The Official Secrets Act can for all intents and purposes be repealed as far as civilian Whitehall is concerned, and not before time.

Mr Shepherd and the Home Secretary also both lay emphasis on the value of internal disciplinary procedures within the Civil Service as a substitute for the Official Secrets Act. This, too, is a welcome concurrence of view.

According to Mr Hurd there is to be a class of official information whose release could be politically embarrassing, damaging to orderly

government, but not subject to criminal sanction. Instead, internal disciplinary procedures would apply. It would be desirable if the Prime Minister were now to encourage the new Cabinet Secretary to do some thinking aloud on this subject; the rules he inherited from his predecessor are already out of date.

Mr Hurd's categories of official information still have to be defined in detail. Policing arrangements need to be made. There is no question yet of the Government's having kidnapped its backbencher's baby. Mr Hurd had nothing to say last night on the various conscience clauses, by which the release of protected information could be justified on the ground that a prior principle (such as law-breaking or abuse of authority) had been breached.

It is time now to consider the other element in the package: how to protect national security, and specifically how to deal with one of the key problems raised by the *Spycatcher* case. Mr Hurd accepted last night the fact that there may be issues on which officers of the security service need to go to a counsellor outside the organization.

The Government argues that the newly appointed Ombudsman, Sir Philip Woodfield, is a sufficient safety valve. Sir Philip, a retired Civil Servant, is "inside", but can hardly be called part of the security apparatus. Much conventional wisdom today argues for a committee of Privy Counsellors to perform this function. They would be "outside" but, because of their oaths, could not be called accountable to the public.

Mr Hurd has given a sign that the conventional wisdom may indeed contain nuggets of wisdom and, at the very least, that he does not possess cloth ears. Suddenly, on this noisy battlefield, the elements of a consensus have come together most promisingly.

Competition for health services

From Mr Tim Devlin, MP for Stockton South (Conservative)
Sir, The President of the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association, in his letter outlining the HSCA proposals (January 25), overlooks the need for competition in health care and the high cost of technological development.

Management of hospitals at local level would in many cases mean small hospitals being unable to purchase expensive items of equipment such as the latest operating tables, scanners and the like. Far better, therefore, for groups of health authorities to band together to form "health corporations". I look forward to the "Jesside Health Corporation" and the "East London Health Corporation" providing services, if the HSCA proposals were implemented.

To introduce competition the premiums suggested from the compulsory health insurance scheme could be collected into an insurance fund that paid out a set sum for particular procedures, with the patient able to choose his hospital and "spend" his sum there.

Successful local corporations might even move into providing packages of care on payment of an extra charge, perhaps specialising in particular operations. Local health corporations would then have to compete with the service or be starved of cash as patients used their "vouchers" elsewhere. We could impose a statutory duty on health corporations to provide certain levels of accident and emergency cover.

The HSCA proposal, thus modified, would provide patients with choice; competition would improve services and individuals would have health care hypothesized so that they could examine the costs, topping up with private insurance if they wished.

Yours faithfully,
TIM DEVLIN,
House of Commons,
January 25.

Wrong ground staff

From the General Secretary of the Royal College of Midwives
Sir, A child who was about to be delivered by a stork was featured in today's Calman cartoon (January 26). The caption expressed the stork's hope that "the nurses are there when I land".

I think the stork would have been much happier if midwives had been present on landing. Yours faithfully,
RUTH M. ASHTON,
General Secretary,
The Royal College of Midwives,
15 Mansfield Street, W1,
January 26.

Abortion debate

From Mr Christopher Swain
Sir, Voting on David Alton's Abortion Amendment Bill last week (report, January 23) provided a further illustration of the unrepresentative nature of the House of Commons. In this instance it seems that under-representation of women could well be a determining factor in the passage of the Bill.

The second reading was approved by 54 per cent of the MPs voting, but the vote was actually decided by male MPs, who accounted for 94 per cent of the total. There was a modest majority in favour of the Bill amongst the men (287 to 225), which swamped the votes of the women present. They in fact voted 74 per cent against the Bill.

On the evidence of the votes cast, it seems highly likely that a House of Commons with a better balance of male and female MPs would have rejected the Bill. This should at least cause male MPs to think carefully how they respond at later stages of the Bill's progress. Having a "free" (unwhipped) vote does not absolve MPs from taking this wider responsibility to the electorate into account. Yours faithfully,
C. SWAIN,
55 Vernon Close,
Henham,
Bishops Cleeve,
Hertfordshire,
January 24.

Hearing of appeals

From Detective Chief Superintendent J. A. McGowan
Sir, On at least two recent occasions I have heard, or read, comments by Mr Ludovic Kennedy (January 21) on the "hard-pressed police officers who delude themselves into thinking a suspect to be guilty". It is not immediately obvious that he has drawn on any empirical research in making that statement.

Leaving aside those matters currently under review I, and I suspect others, would be most interested to know if he can substantiate his claim that the "vast majority of miscarriages of justice" result from evidence manufactured by police, to ensure that "justice is done".

Most sensible people are not persuaded that our prisons, apparently bursting at the seams, are full of innocent men and women. Yours,
J. A. MESTRAVICK,
Company Fraud Squad,
Metropolitan Police,
New Scotland Yard,
Broadway,
Victoria, SW1,
January 22.

Humpty Dumpty test of disclosure?

From Mr Tom Welsh
Sir, In your report today (January 27) of the £20,000 fine imposed on *The Independent's* reporter for refusing to reveal his source of information in articles about insider dealing you quote the judge, Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, as saying that it was not open to the press to say they had their own view as to what was in the best interests of society because Parliament in a free society laid down what was the law and what had to be done.

But surely those members of Parliament who were concerned with the passage of section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 (which the judge said established for the first time a legal right to protect a journalist's sources) must be as surprised as the rest of us by the outcome of this case. The section said, with admirable clarity, that no person was guilty of contempt of court for refusing to disclose the source of information contained in a publication unless it was established to the satisfaction of the court that disclosure was "necessary" for the prevention of "crime".

It was hardly surprising then that at first instance the judge refused an order to disclose. He said disclosure was "necessary" only if it was the only means of preventing further insider dealing; the disclosure had to be the "key to the puzzle". The Appeal Court and the House of Lords did not

agree. In the Lords, according to your report, Lord Griffiths said necessary was a word in common usage in everyday speech with which everyone was familiar. Its meaning lay somewhere between "indispensable" on one hand and "useful" or "expedient" on the other. The other law lords agreed.

Every official investigating a scandal who demands to know a journalist's source can claim that the information would be useful to him, so the section now appears to be valueless as a protection for the whistle-blower and the investigative journalist at a time when they are needed more than ever. We can hardly blame Parliament if its legislation is given a judicial interpretation different from its clear meaning; my dictionary says necessary means indispensable and gives no meaning for the word that even approximates to useful.

This is not, alas, an isolated example of judicial eccentricity, but is part of the pattern of court decisions in favour of the executive that has recently become familiar. The judges appear to have abandoned their traditional and constitutional role of holding the ring in the unequal struggle between government and freedom of speech.

Yours faithfully,
TOM WELSH,
2/3 Broom Close,
Broughton-in-Furness, Cumbria,
January 27.

Moves on Aids

From the Chairman of the Health Education Authority
Sir, Neil Lyndon's article (January 25) on the Aids time bomb ticking away in this country is both discerning and timely. It is, therefore, all the more unfortunate that his final paragraphs should have been diverted to an unjustified allegation of secrecy on the part of the Health Education Authority.

One of the first decisions taken by this still comparatively new authority was to meet in public. The last two meetings devoted a considerable amount of time to discussions on our Aids strategy.

Liberal tactics

From the General Secretary of the Association of Liberal Councillors
Sir, So the myths about the Blackpool Assembly are already being spread about ("How the backroom boys helped Steel to save the day", January 25). How typical of the London Liberal establishment to think, in their self-important way, that they "fixed" it, by a variety of legitimate and dubious means.

My impression of Blackpool is very different. I reckon about a third of the delegates came undecided, and what swayed them were not clappers or linkmen. If that had been going on to any significant extent, people would have reacted against it.

What finally convinced them was the debate, and a quite clear decision that the merger which had already been achieved at grassroots level could not be thrown away because the leadership had produced an unsatisfactory deal.

Finally, can I point out that, while I personally am exploring support for Malcolm Bruce, the Association of Liberal Councillors is not "canvassing support" for him. It is very unlikely that ALC will back any particular candidate. With Ashdown, Beith, Bruce and Kennedy we have an embarrassment of riches in any leadership election.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET CLAY,
General Secretary,
Association of Liberal Councillors,
The Birchcliffe Centre,
Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire,
January 27.

Known owners

From the Secretary of the Building Societies Commission
Sir, The article by Rodney Hobson (January 25) on the implications of a building society becoming a public company, which included a reported remark by a building society executive that "No one knows who really owns the building societies or what rights people have got", raised a few eyebrows at the Building Societies Commission.

Building societies are mutual institutions, as defined by the Building Societies Act 1986. That Act, unlike former TSB legislation, specifies that before a society can become a public company the agreement of the voting members of the society must be sought. The Act also makes provision as to the financial interest of the investing members in the event of a society becoming a public company.

If any society is agonising over who owns it there is a simple answer: the members of the society do. Yours faithfully,
DAVID SEVERN, Secretary,
Building Societies Commission,
15 Great Marlborough Street, W1.

Uneasy on the ear

From Mr R. D. L. Tye
Sir, Mr Simon Inglis (January 22) asks about irritating sounds. I suggest the constant click of the machines used by supermarket staff to put new price labels on goods for display. I associate the noise with constantly rising prices. It was the "sound of the seventies". Yours faithfully,
RODNEY TYE,
2 Heasne Drive, Holyport,
Maidenhead, Berkshire,
January 22.

Help for Contra fighters opposed

From the Bishop of Gloucester
Sir, I have just spent a week in Nicaragua, meeting politicians and church leaders, as well as ordinary Nicaraguans. I believe it is not widely realised in this country how keenly the vast majority of people there hope that the US Congress will not grant President Reagan's request for renewed aid to the Contra fighters on February 3 and 4.

Surely whatever influence Britain may have in Central America should be used in dissuading any nation from sending arms to Nicaragua. Those who have the welfare of that struggling country at heart should rather exert themselves to help the Nicaraguans to find a fair solution to their civil war through peaceful negotiation, in the spirit of the peace plan agreed by the leaders of all five Central American countries.

That is the judgement of the Papal Nuncio, to whom I spoke. It is the judgement of Dr Gustavo Parajón, a widely respected leader of Nicaraguan Evangelical Christians, whom I also met and with whom I prayed for peace in Nicaragua. Many of us will be praying that the US Congress will come to the same mind.

Yours,
JOHN GLOUCESTER,
Bishop of Gloucester,
Pitt Street,
Gloucester,
January 27.



ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 29 1953

In 1919 Alcock and Brown flew the Atlantic in a Vickers Vimy bomber, covering a distance over the sea of 1,960 miles in a little over 15 hours. Less than 35 years later a Canberra jet aircraft took 30 hours to reach Australia from Britain, over four times the distance.

RECORD FLIGHT BY CANBERRA

ENGLAND-AUSTRALIA IN A DAY

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT ADELAIDE, Jan. 28

A Canberra jet aircraft arrived over Darwin airport at 6.38 a.m. C.M.T. to-day, then becoming the first aeroplane to fly from England to Australia in less than a day. The elapsed time was just over 22 hours.

The Canberra, piloted by Flight Lieutenant L. M. Whittington, with Flight Lieutenant J. A. Brown as navigator, arrived one hour behind its time-table, owing to head winds reaching over 125 miles an hour at high altitude.

Flight Lieutenant Whittington's first words as he stepped out on to the sun-drenched airstrip were "It was a good trip, but I'm boiling," and he immediately stripped off three sweaters that he had been wearing under his flying suit.

The airman were welcomed by Wing Commander Cooper, officer commanding the north-west area, R.A.A.F., to whom they presented a copy of yesterday's issue of *The Times*...

MINISTER'S TRIBUTE TO AIRMEN

AVERAGE OF 391 MILES AN HOUR

BY OUR AERONAUTICAL CORRESPONDENT

Subject to official confirmation, new speed records for flights between London and Karachi and between London and Darwin were set up by the Ministry of Supply Canberra twin-jet photographic reconnaissance aircraft, which left London on Tuesday morning and reached Australia early yesterday on its way to the rocket range at Woomera, where it is to be used for experimental purposes.

The distance of 8,608.5 statute miles from London to Darwin was covered in a total time of 22 hours and 21.8 seconds, including re-fuelling stops at Fayid (Suez Canal zone), Mauritipur (Kachchi), and Singapore. The average speed was 391.2 miles an hour. The existing record of 46 hours 35 minutes was established in August, 1946, by the R. A. F. Lancaster Arius, which had an average speed of 189.9 miles an hour.

The Canberra's time over the 3,921.2 statute miles from London to Karachi was 8 hours 52 minutes 28.2 seconds, giving an average speed of 441.8 miles an hour. The previous record was set up by Squadron Leader Neville Duke, chief test pilot of Hawker Aircraft, who flew a Hawker Sea Fury at an average speed of 256 miles an hour to cover the distance in 15 hours 18 minutes 38 seconds...

When news of the Canberra's arrival at Darwin was received in England Mr. Duncan Sandys, Minister of Supply, sent the following message to Air Commodore A. H. Wheeler, commanding officer of the Economic Down establishment: "Warmest congratulations to Whittington and Brown and all who contributed to this memorable flight..."

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Follies of Gerald Scarfe

The most entertaining 40 Minutes (BBC2) of the season so far was a piece of unashamed whimsy on architectural follies. Eschewing the fact-clustered gush of Lucinda Lambton, Gerald Scarfe not only embodied in his film the wayward spirit of folly building but also had one built himself.

In between visits to his slowly rising concrete circle, the great white-tailed cartoonist rode an increasingly eccentric menagerie round the shrines of English follydom: horse, llama, baby elephant and — aptly enough, in visiting the pyramid-grave of Mad Jack Fuller — a camel called Ivy. This cavalier attitude was compounded by some outrageous flouting of continuity, as when a white horse turned into a chestnut in the twinkling of a cutter's eye.

Human interest was supplied by a high-kicking chorus line, a bare-kneed Jeffrey Archer misquoting from "Grantchester" and by the architect Peter Forster giving his own tentative definition of an eccentric: "someone who's just slightly off the norm." The use of actors to play period bit-parts echoed the procedure of last year's *The Victorian House* — although Mr Scarfe's ambition, aside from the odd uneasy nod towards "serious" follies, never sank below the level of sunny, pun-sprinkled froth. Since he takes such a patent delight in the nuts and bolts of filming, more subjects should be found for him *en route*.

Also on BBC2, *The War in Korea* came to the end of its bitter course, and Birnam Wood came to Danzanne in the shape of countless Chinese troops equipped with backpacks of greenery; it was, recalled one veteran, like seeing mountains move. Captured USAF pilots "confessed" to having dropped bombs filled with insects and bobonic rats, while like got cross and threatened to drop the Bomb. The Korean War finally went dark, only to reopen in Vietnam.

Written and fronted by Max Hastings, of the Kenneth More memorial cravat and breast-pocket hankie, this series has been crisply evocative and, despite its closing disclaimer, agreeably strong on the futility of "limited" war.

Martin Cropper

Michael Codron took a rest from the theatre to concentrate on film. But the impresario is back at his West End desk, and raring to go. He told John Higgins of plans that will bring glitter back to the London stage

Michael Codron was mildly peeved when, at the end of last year, one of London's leading theatre critics described him as being "in retreat" possibly in both senses of the phrase. For the past 30 years Codron has averaged about four stage productions annually, mainly of new plays by British writers. In 1987 he was merely "quiescent", to use his own adjective, as far as the theatre was concerned; most of the time went in trying to set up the money for a film entitled *First and Last*.

This was intended to follow in the tracks of *Clockwise*, Codron's first excursion into the cinema, with Michael Frayn providing a much more serious script. Much of the American money was going to come from David Puttnam, but with his abrupt departure from Hollywood that was the end of that. *First and Last* is now being reconsidered as a purely British film with British finance.

But Codron is now back with the stage, to which he has belonged since he came down from Oxford. His offices in the Aldwych Theatre are sumptuous by the standards of the profession. The obvious playbills are interspersed with newspaper cartoons and favourite misprints, indications of a man who at least on the outside finds life droll. He is now approaching his late fifties, but the neatness of dress, movement and speech suggest someone much younger.

The period of quiescence is over. Codron's future plans, although he would never admit it, are designed to bring back a little glitter to the West End. First there is the new Tom Stoppard play, *Hapgood*, which opens at the Aldwych itself in March with the old Stoppard team of Felicity Kendal and Roger Rees on stage and Peter Wood directing. The Stoppard-Codron combination now spans 12 years, and the latest outcome takes a look in the direction of spies, *Le Carré*, and cases of identity.

Thereafter the linchpin of the Codron operation is going to be Michael Gambon. He will be seen first this summer in the title role of *Uncle*



Great plans: Michael Codron, after his brief sojourn in the film world, back at work in his Aldwych theatre office

Vanya (new Chekhov translation by Frayn) with a very glossy cast by current West End standards which includes Greta Scacchi, Imelda Staunton, Jonathan Pryce and Benjamin Whitrow. Next year comes an intriguing double: Alan Ayckbourn is writing a play that can be performed in tandem with *Othello*. This is planned for the Aldwych.

"Alan", says Codron, "sees *Othello* as a chamber piece which could be played by a dozen or so actors, all of whom would be suitable for his own play."

What are the special qualities that make Gambon crucial to the Codron plans? "He is a protean being. Off stage he is mild-mannered and self-effacing; on stage he can turn himself into anything and anyone. Look at the butler in *Tons of Money* at the National — unrecognizable as Michael."

"I first worked with him on the *Norman Conquests*, and when he took over from Alan [Bates] in *Otherwise Engaged*. But I confess I didn't then see him as classic material. The change probably came when he did *Galileo*, again at the National."

It does look a little as though Codron is taking over where the National leaves off when Peter Hall goes to fresh pastures this summer. Codron fields the question deftly, as though he has fielded it a few times before. "There's an interchange. I don't cry woe if the National seizes a new play I would have liked. As far as Alan Ayckbourn is concerned, he has gone to some effort to strike a balance between us and the National, carefully giving me one play and then the next. Although I've quite often found myself getting the non-commercial one."

(In fact Michael Codron will be producing another Ayckbourn, *Henceforward*, with Ian McKellen and Jane Asher, before the Gambon project takes the stage.)

"One of the reasons I can now do this sort of planning is that I am a theatre owner. [The Adelphi, Aldwych and Vaudeville are all now Codron controlled]. For years I resisted going into bricks and mortar and regarded myself purely as a theatrical management. I pitched my tent and then moved off when the time came; now I have put down a few anchors, if I'm allowed to mix metaphors of land and sea. I cannot tell you what a pleasure it

is to go into one of my theatres and see someone else's production." Codron was looking notably relaxed when *Shirley Valentine* opened at the Vaudeville last week.

Despite the strength on paper of what is to come, there are also plans for an evening of Joyce Grenfell with Maureen Lipman, and some Chekhov one-acters with Rowan Atkinson. Has Codron not surrounded himself with a small nucleus of friends?

"It's quite true that I like to work with those whom I know and trust, but my banner has always been new plays by British authors and it still reads that way. I continue to commission: Victoria Wood is about finish writing, Doug Lucie and Martin Crimp among others are to come. I don't call that a small nucleus."

Some years ago Michael Codron was accused of being a man with impeccable taste but a vulgar streak. He replied succinctly that he thought he had vulgar taste but an impeccable streak. There is not much vulgarity in what lies immediately ahead.

"Perhaps", he says "but it's not so long since I did *Look, No Hands*. That was a romp."

Generation gap

DANCE

Giselle
Covent Garden

Although Phillip Broomhead's *Albrecht* at Covent Garden on Wednesday was his first performance in the role, he did go on last season, substituting for an indisposed colleague, so he has had some chance to think about the part. As usual with him, the result looks very sincere, entirely committed. My first reaction was to think how well he and Ravenna Tucker as Giselle matched each other in trying to convey clearly the characters and their drama.

It was only later that a curious difference between them began to sink in. I saw exactly the same difference last Saturday between Cynthia Harvey, in her first Covent Garden *Giselle*, and her partner Mark Silver. Harvey and Tucker are women of the 1980s trying to find a contemporary way to make sense of an 1840s ballet. In both Silver and Broomhead I sense a curiously old-fashioned manner.

Perhaps they are trying for a "romantic" style, but I am sure the way they move is unlike what would have been seen on the 19th century stage. In manner, both Silver, gaunt

and with heavily-shadowed eyes, and the sleeker, rounder Broomhead, seemed modelled upon a generation of male dancers — Lifar, Helpmann and Dolin — they can never have seen.

The explanation must lie in the way they are taught the role, and the phenomenon is a curious example of how heavily an outstanding personality can influence tradition.

Both the new casts were probably better in the Second Act than the First, especially Harvey whose American background and personal gifts give her a lighter, more airy quality than the British dancers. Incidentally, Guy Niblett (with Tucker and Broomhead) gives Hilariion a rebellious, seedy look that brings to mind the days when he was played as a villain, but Antony Dowson in the same part brings out his sympathetic side very strongly.

Antony Twiner, the Royal Ballet's principal pianist, has conducted all this season's performances of *Giselle* in place of an intended guest conductor who fell by the wayside, and the playing has been by no means the worst we have heard on ballet nights at Covent Garden. The long Bellini-like tunes that accompany Albrecht's grief in Act Two are caressingly done.

John Percival

Italian delights

CONCERT

ECO/Leppard
Elizabeth Hall

The central panel of Raymond Leppard's Italian-inspired triptych of concerts with the English Chamber Orchestra was unveiled on Wednesday. Where the first concert may have seemed little more than Venetian nostalgia, the second, celebrated Naples, the senses, and everything Leppard continues to do best.

It's no accident that both he and Hans Werner Henze have made their own, luscious arrangements of Monteverdi opera. A marriage of responses as well as minds was very much in evidence in Leppard's warmly evocative direction of Henze's *Five Neapolitan Songs*.

As Sarah Walker focused closely on the sensuous declamation and dialect of these anonymous 17th-century love-poems, Leppard meticulously controlled a

school heavy with woodwind and brass. Horns followed the bass strings into the secretive lower reaches of voice in the second song of fountains and forests, pizzicato pulsed disconcertingly to the echo of a muted trumpet in the last extended rhapsody of grief.

Even more of a rarity had earlier been summoned up from the shades: Pergolesi's cantata *Opéra* was sung by Sarah Walker with every bit as much conviction as if she had been handling Monteverdi or Gluck.

Separating Miss Walker's two *lours de force* came Haydn's Concerto in G for two flutes, originally commissioned for the hurdy-gurdy-playing King Ferdinand of Naples. William Bennett and Kate Hill delighted in its simple pleasures; and the curtain came down, as it had to, in the Teatro San Carlo, as Rossini's *Otello* Overture, written for that company, acted as an evening finale.

Hilary Finch

THEATRE

Haywain
Adonis

Venus and
Lucrece
Almeida

When he turned to non-theatrical forms, Shakespeare was not much of a dramatic poet (compared with Donne or Jonson), and I see no reason to doubt the Art Depot's claim that its adaptation is a Shakespearean world premiere.

Venus and Adonis began as a National Theatre Studio exercise and offers a piecemeal effort to knock the material into theatrical shape. Bardy Thomas's company imposes a new scenario on the poem; instead of the Goddess of Love in pursuit of the disdainful young hunter, we see three peasant girls gangling up on a surly boy.

The substitution of a Warwickshire pastoral for an Ovidian fable falls apart from the moment the girls begin their teasing by launching straight into the courtly verses. Thereafter none of the elaborate attempts to animate the scene succeeds in establishing the basic situation.

It is one thing for Venus to fling herself on Adonis; but what happens with three Venuses? For one promising moment it seems to be a Shakespearean echo of Merriam's *The Midnight Court*, with a Parliament of women punishing a neglectful male. But the moment passes and you are left with a pack of randy farm girls moving in for a gang-bang.

The Rape of Lucrece is much better, if only for the reason that it preserves the original narrative structure. Here is Lucrece's old nurse telling her mistress the story of Lucrece while she combs her hair, thus setting the stage for Tarquin's arrival in a shaft of steel-blue light.

David Lansbury succeeds in characterizing Tarquin as a man wracked with foreboding before the rape; and this also raises the dramatic temperature in the rape scene itself, with Mr Lansbury resolutely hanging his head against a bed-post while Sarah Woodward pleads for mercy.

Irving Wardle



Witty: Richard Sisson and Kit Hesketh-Harvey, inspired by Noel Coward and Tom Lehrer

A talent to amuse

Kit and the
Widow

Lyric, Hammersmith

The recent crocodile musical *Lyle* fared poorly in the Lyric's main house, but this urbane and devilishly witty cabaret double act should pack the Studio for the next two weeks.

Kit is young Mr Hesketh-Harvey, a smiling, courtly baritone, who treats his audience with studied politeness, though I do not think I should like to meet him on a dark night with a bad review. He is not polite about Mrs Lloyd-Webber or Meryl Streep. I am less certain of his true feelings for Joan Collins but he devotes a sharp and very funny song to the uplifting details of her face.

One did not like to ask why the even younger-looking Richard Sisson is nicknamed Widow, and we are not told. He sits at his white piano, tinkling away at Bach, Mendelssohn, Ravel and Lloyd-Webber, turning the first three with apparent minimum of effort into the last.

They are a very clever pair (and if you cannot make it to Hammersmith they do a spot for *Wogan* on Fridays). The lyrics of their songs are brazenly adroit, and they do not shrink from rhyming Piat d'Or with matador. Tom Lehrer and Noel Coward are their ancestors, and Gilbert too in the updated version of

the Constable's song: "Every winter in the cold and dark he's out (Darkies out)."

Their best jokes, even without double entendres are brilliant. I have one complaint however, which is that the Coward tribute, "Let's Not Do It", would be welcome at twice the length.

Team work is polished and they play the old joke of singer

contemptuous of pianist, and pianist taking furtive revenge.

In the second half they relinquish the stage for 10 minutes to the silent conjurer Leo Ward, who produces red candles from nowhere and wine from a folded copy of this newspaper. He would surely have been burned as a wizard three centuries ago.

Jeremy Kingston

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FRIDAY PAGE



The last Mrs Burton: 'When we married I loved Richard — without reserve. It was like suddenly operating at a higher voltage, with all the lights on'

A very public wife

Is Sally Burton miscast as a 'Dynasty-style widow'? Julia Orange met her

Sally Burton was educated at a convent in Birmingham, where the values of self-restraint and compassion were instilled in the pupils. These virtues stood her in good stead during the time she spent as the wife of a public property, Richard Burton, but were poor training for the more brutal business of being his widow: a process which sounds akin to dying of small cuts.

She had been married to Burton for 13 months, "the happiest, the best time of my life — I've never felt so sure about anything", when he died beside her in bed quite unexpectedly of a massive cerebral haemorrhage at their house, the Villa Pays de Calles, in Coligny, Switzerland. That was nearly four years ago, but recently, when she read the account of her husband's life and death by her brother-in-law, Graham Jenkins, in *The Sunday Times*, she felt "as though I had lost Richard all over again".

According to Jenkins, Burton's funeral was marked by more subplots than are seen in a season of *Dynasty*, by squabbling relatives, by two women, Elizabeth Taylor and Sally, at daggers drawn, even if thousands of miles apart; by accountants figuring out the cost-effectiveness of having the bones laid to rest in the valleys of Ponthiridien versus the peaks of Switzerland.

There is a popular theory that if you choose to make your bed with a man in the public eye, there will be jumps; but what Burton says she was unprepared for was the violation she

felt at this image of her husband's funeral.

"It was not the funeral that I went to," she says. Sitting in her London hotel, her face is pale against a brilliant magenta dress. "I was trying to mourn the man I loved and to remember the tranquil, happy times we had before he died. It wasn't easy against the background of intense media interest, but it wasn't impossible, and coming together with the family to share this ritual was important to us."

"It's almost funny, Graham's portrayal of me as this bristling young *Dynasty*-style widow, with her padded shoulders, clacking around firing out orders; in fact, I spent most of my time in a darkened room in a state of shock. But that's not very saleable, is it?"

She claims to have had a perfectly friendly relationship with Elizabeth Taylor: "When Richard and she were in *Private Lives* [in 1983], I saw her every day for nine months backstage. But that's not good copy, is it? It doesn't conform to the old clichés of ex-wives loathing each other. As for warning her off from the funeral, I was in shock. Somebody else phoned her and warned her off. Later I got on the phone and tried to sort it out."

Having inherited the bulk of her husband's £3.5 million estate, with the houses in Haiti and Switzerland,

she is being punished by a subconscious belief about rich young widows, summed up by the words: "well, she died nicely for herself, didn't she?" She deals with this without humbug. "There is no question that knowing you will not starve makes life easier." She was a modestly paid production assistant when she met Burton in the studio canteen on the set of *Wagner*, in 1982.

"When we married," she says, "I loved him — without reserve. It was like suddenly operating at a higher voltage with all the lights on." She did not find him a difficult man. "By the time we met, he had laid a great many ghosts. He was enjoying his life and his work, he enjoyed domesticity. He washed up beautifully."

After he died, she found her grief incapacitating, and frightening. "I lost the confidence to do even the simplest of things, like driving a car. I was 37 years old when Richard died [he was 58], and I had no desire to go back to being a production assistant, and no clear idea which world I belonged in any more." In the end, work was the best therapy. The novel she wrote last year, *The Barren Patch*, will be published in March and was inspired by her life as an ordinary London working girl. Recently, she has been helping Melvyn Bragg with a

biography of her husband, based on the diaries which Burton kept.

Her first job, a year after Burton's death, was to make a documentary for the BBC, *The Real Life of Hollywood Wives*. Her producer, Colleen Toomey, became a friend. Later, when a friend of Toomey's was widowed and she was at a loss to know how best to help, she called Sally. That experience has led to a documentary on death and funerals which Toomey is still editing.

When I asked her what advice she had given Toomey, she said it was simply to acknowledge her friend's grief: "Letters are a fantastic help. I still treasure the lovely ones I got from Sybil [Burton's first wife] and from Susan [his fourth wife], who was also an important part of his life."

"Another thing widows need is to talk and talk it through. And they need practical help: buy the milk, walk the dogs, don't wait to be asked." When I expressed surprise at this — surely she'd had domestic help? — she said that she hadn't and she had been intensely grateful for practical friends.

Grief had made her rude to her mother, which she regretted, and it had been hard seeing other people upset by her grieving. "Perhaps what you really need is a padded box and a nurse," she smiles.

And if a funeral which should have been an act of dignity became an act of indignity? "You shut up and get on with it. The way to defend yourself is to be yourself."

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Age old problem



BARBARA AMIEL

had problems at the Nye Bevan Lodge. As tempting as it is to attribute the torture of helpless old aged pensioners to loony left wing councils, I cannot in conscience feel this is a matter confined to Southwark.

The truth of the matter is that our society tends to attack those who are vulnerable. Hooligans with no political ideology at all beat up 87-year-old pensioners not because they are richer than 35-year-old businessmen, but simply because they are weaker. The question is as demographics make this more and more of a problem, what are we going to

do about elderly women lying in urine-soaked bedsheets or tied helplessly to chairs?

Part of the problem is that people really get older later in life these days. In previous times, someone who was 60 or 65 was an old man. He was expected to sit in the park and watch the pigeons. There wasn't a "problem" of old age.

There was no crisis of "expectations", I suppose, because between the extended family and the apathy with which we regarded the matter, ageing was simply there. But society has changed, because of the medical sciences and because of social structures. And frankly, I'm not one to get all nostalgic about the days when the extended family was such a marvellous thing and spinster aunt Kate grew old in the bosom of her family.

This came to mind as I watched the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News*, which this week had a rather interesting two-part look at old people's homes. They were mostly concerned with charges of the abuse of elderly residents in three homes in Southwark, which is the same council that

It is all very well having a romantic view in retrospect, but if your relatives were horrid, life could be Hieronymus Bosch hell. Still, what is to be done now when finally the memory goes and all the supplementary benefits get you is a nursing home with rabbit bran sprinkled on the cereal?

The answer seems to me not so difficult. For example, more than 60 per cent of our population now own their own homes. As they get older, they don't really need all that space. Why not let them sell their one capital asset at half the market value to their children, say, and put the remainder of the money in some sort of annuity specifically for good old age care facilities? Having money gives an old person a say over his destiny and, even more importantly, respect. At the same time, we must obviously spend more money on old age homes, and if this means cutting down on trendy studies on "pay equity" or the multicultural society, I can't help thinking we will be doing ourselves a double benefit.

But whether private or public, we need more and better old age homes which must be thoroughly inspected. The government inspects meat; it inspects cinemas; surely it ought to be very carefully inspecting old age homes.

What I fear are the rumblings of organizations like the charity Age Concern. I tremble when I hear Age Concern's director, Sally Greengross, quoted as saying we need "local teams of independent advocates, lay people who would befriend and represent the interest of elderly people in homes". If she simply means more volunteer workers, well, marvellous and admirable, but if this becomes a government bureaucracy set up to raise the consciousness of the elderly, I can think of no good coming from it at all.

Finally, the wisdom of the ages has not yet become outmoded. It is better to be old and wealthy than old and poor. In so far as one can provide for old age one should. As for the human condition, it has always been my feeling that it is smarter not to outlive one's own ability to take care of oneself. It is against my religion but I feel deep inside that the Creator will understand how I feel about bedpans.

TALKBACK

services to children, needs to raise £23m this year. What is wrong, as in the case of the Bank of Scotland NSPCC Visa card, when both objectives combine, providing mutual benefits to help children? And what is wrong with telling people about it so that they may join in?

From Aminatta Forna, Fulham Road, London SW6

What Barbara Amiel failed to mention in her article "Questions of right and wrong"

(January 8), is that Asian women frequently abort female foetuses for the reason that a wife who is seen as a producer of female children may become the victim of abuse and alienation from her husband's family. If she continually fails to provide male heirs she may be divorced and left to fend for herself.

Is this any more or less selfish than the western woman who finds herself pregnant after "an unsatisfactory love affair", and opts for an abortion rather than risk the indignation of her family and the loss of her career?

Places for the boys

Not long ago, St Hugh's College, Oxford celebrated its 100th anniversary. Old girls gathered to drink its health and remember their founder, Elizabeth Wordsworth, who established the college in 1886 with a small legacy from her father, the Bishop of Lincoln. Monique Viner, a barrister and graduate of St Hugh's, paid tribute to the law department. "Law," she announced, "has given me the most wonderful life, and that is due to this college."

By coincidence, 1986 was the year that St Hugh's voted to go mixed, and it is a consequence of that decision that

Undergraduate girls at St Hugh's are facing the Oxford blues

next autumn no women whatever will go up to read law at St Hugh's, all five places having been filled by men. This will not be the only area of male supremacy: figures just released by the college show that men have been awarded 79 out of the college's 119 places. Some of the undergraduates who came up when St Hugh's was still single sex

are "sickened" and "shocked" and plan letters of protest.

"There are men here and we must make the best of it," says Rona Macleod, president of the student's Junior Common Room (JCR), "but if in the second year of going mixed St Hugh's takes twice as many men, that implies that in three years' time it's going to be male dominated. Already it's 40 per cent in two years. It's just frightening."

It might be argued that Magdalen, Balliol and the rest of the formerly male colleges had equally strong traditions, and that their mixing has done nothing but increase the numbers of women undergraduates. In 1973, the last year before any Oxford co-education, there were 2,094 women out of 10,331 undergraduates; the most recent figures show an increase to 3,846 out of 9,730. But the disgruntled undergraduates of St Hugh's protest that even in the mixed colleges women are always in the minority — and that some women could benefit from a soothing environment free from overweening boys.

There are still only 46 men out of around 300 undergraduates in the college, but for the first time "quiet" noises have been stuck on corridor walls, and in the college bar, the twinning beer mats are just as sordid, the darts players as raucous as in any male college.

Rona and her friends insist they have nothing against the boys; they would merely like some assurance that in future there will be "a sort of policy whereby if two candidates are of equal standing then they should be taking the woman."

Dr Avril Buxton, the Vice-principal and senior tutor in English at St Hugh's, says she could do nothing of the kind: "I would always find some intellectual reason for choosing one rather than the other." Although she campaigned against admitting men, she considers herself bound by a democratic vote to abide by her old criterion of taking the best. This year's result has been six men and six women, and, to her, no discernible academic improvement.

As the university has gradually gone mixed, Oxford's



Mixed blessings: but do the girls feel dispossessed?

single sex colleges have slithered down the Norrington Table, an annual league table of collegiate achievement. It has become obvious that the mutual attraction between famous and beautiful men's colleges and the most able women candidates destroys any single sex institution's chance of a good Norrington place.

Miss Rachel Trickett, Principal of St Hugh's, is in a sticky position. Notorious for her opposition to admitting men, she is committed to making the best of her college's decision to do so. But one of her long-standing suspicions about mixing Oxford colleges remains: "What I dislike about the set-up is really that I don't think it's a good thing for women to be in the minority," she says. "When girls in men's mixed colleges look up at high table and see a male dominated fellowship it does make them feel that you really do have to scale Everest to get up there."

Somerville, one of Oxford's last two women's colleges, is still resisting men as either teachers or undergraduates. It is a disadvantage both financial — for they have to replace university funded male teachers with their own female ones

— and academic. "But we don't feel that the problems of academic excellence are so severe that they conflict with our feeling that we still have a mission to at least ensure that extra opportunities for women be still temporarily there, and to get those figures up," says Somerville's Vice-principal, Miriam Griffin.

In the bar at St Hugh's, such feelings are echoed by second and third years, convinced that men cannot be that much better than women. "Anyway, Oxford to me always seemed as much about getting on with your personality as it was with working," says Caroline Dove, a second year PPE student. "Was it worth sacrificing that for a few places on the Norrington Table?"

Breaking off from a game of darts, a first year girl clearly thought it was "Everyone knows that girls' colleges are like boarding schools — and out here you'd have to go half a mile to meet any male." Now you could find one serving at the bar. "The first years say they prefer it," Mark Woolley says, pausing between customers. "They say they couldn't stand to be in an all girls' college."

Catherine Bennett
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This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN



BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE
LONDON

★ **ACTING SHAKESPEARE:** Ian McKellen plays Hamlet, Falstaff, Romeo, Juliet and many more in award-winning solo show. All proceeds to the London Light House AIDS Hospice. Last two days. Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (01-404 1401). Tue, Embroiders Tue-Sat 8.30-8.30pm and 11.30pm. 1.30am, tomorrow 8.30-8.30pm and 9-11pm, Sat 8-11pm.

★ **AMERICAN EAGLE:** Comic book superhero (POW!) helps America win the war against evil (ZAP!) but runs into problems later. Run extended until Feb 6. Old Red Lion, 418 St. John Street EC1 (01-407 7819). Tue, Angel, Tue, Thur, Fri and Sat 8-9.30pm. Wed and Sat 8.30-7.50pm and 8.45-10.05pm, £3.70-£4.70.

★ **THE BEST OF FRIENDS:** Dramatised correspondence between GBS, the director of the Fitzwilliam Museum and a Lady Abbess: brings John Gielgud back to the West End stage, with Rosemary Harris and Ray McAnally. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue W1 (01-477 2553). Tue, Playhouse Theatre, Previews Tue-Sat 8pm. First night Feb 10, 7pm. Then in repertory. Previews £5.50-23. From Feb 3, £5.50-23.

★ **CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF:** Lindsey Duncan and Ian Charleson in Tennessee Williams's drama of sexual frustration and inhibition in the Deep South. With Eric Porter as Big Daddy. National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank SE1 (01-928 2252). Tue, 7.45pm. First night Feb 3, 7pm. Then in repertory. Previews £5.50-23. From Feb 3, £5.50-23.

★ **DAUGHTER OF THE YEAR:** Transfer of better-than-average revenge thriller. Politely smiling Dinsdale Lande directs Jeremy Bulloch and Hilary Thirlall over the coals. Fortune Theatre, Russell Street WC2 (01-586 2288). Tue, Covent Garden. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.50pm. Sat 8.30-10.35pm. Wed 8.30-10.50pm and Sat 8.30-10.50pm. Previews £5.50-23. From Feb 3, £5.50-23.

★ **KING OF ENGLAND:** Rudolph Walker plays a London taxi driver, returning to Jamaica, who treats his family to a most Soho dinner. New Bernice Kettle plays. Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, Strand, Strand East, E15 (01-534 0310). Tue, Stratford East. Previews tonight and tomorrow, 8-10.30pm. First night Feb 1, 7.30-10.10pm. Then Mon-Sat 8-10.30pm. Previews £23. From Feb 1, £25.50-28.50.

★ **A TOUCH OF THE POET:** Vanessa Redgrave and Tiddly Dalton star in Eugene O'Neill's last play: Illusions of grandeur in a sadistic Boston tavern. Young Vic Theatre, 65 The Cut SE1 (01-928 5833). Tue, Waterloo. Previews until Feb 1, 7.30-10.45pm. First night Feb 2, 7.30-10.15pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30-10.45pm. Mat Sat 2-5.15pm, £7.50.

★ **WORD-WATCHING:** Answers from page 22. **FORSWAT** (c) Covered with sweat, from the prefix *for-* in its meaning excessively, and the old past participle of to sweat. **IDIOITICON** (a) A dictionary confined to a particular dialect (especially German), from the Greek *idiotikon*, private and peculiar. **HEX** (c) A jinx or curse, the Italian sign, from the German *Hexe* a witch. **LOOF** (c) The inside of a cat, or the inside of a cat's paw, from the Old High German *luffa* the blade of an ear.

LONG RUNNERS: ★ **Beyond Reasonable Doubt:** Queens Theatre (01-734 1166). ★ **The Business of Murder:** Mayfair Theatre (01-629 3038). ★ **Cats:** New London Theatre (01-405 0072, 01-404 4073). ★ **Cheese:** Prince Edward Theatre (01-734 8851). ★ **Follies:** Shaftesbury Theatre (01-379 5595). ★ **42nd Street:** Lyric Theatre (01-436 8109/910). ★ **High Society:** Victoria Palace Theatre (01-834 1317). ★ **Las Llamas:** Cottesloe Theatre (01-836 6111, 01-836 1171). ★ **Life and My Girl:** Adelphi Theatre (01-247 4001). ★ **Les Miserables:** Palace Theatre (01-434 0809). ★ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's Theatre (01-635 2244). ★ **Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's Theatre (01-635 2244). ★ **Run For Your Wife:** Crickeat Theatre (01-430 3215). ★ **Sweeney Todd:** Wyndham Theatre (01-536 3026). ★ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Theatre (01-629 8665). ★ **And Then There Were None:** Duke of York's Theatre (01-836 5122).

OUT OF TOWN

★ **BASINGSTOKE:** ★ **The Castaway:** Musical extravaganza. Seven actors, 45 children and a dog in the story of Robinson Crusoe. Haymarket Theatre, The Shrubbery, Cliddesden Road (0256 485566). 7.30pm, £3.50-23.

★ **EDINBURGH:** ★ **Clayton's Aunt:** Rupert Farley plays the much-chased aunt in the immortal farce. Regal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street (01 229 9577). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £3.50-23.

★ **GLASGOW:** ★ **The Vortex:** Maria Aitken and Rupert Everett play the "rotten to the core" mother and outraged son in Coward's "Shocker". Caledonia Theatre, Gorbals (041 429 5561). Mon-Sat 7.30, £3.

★ **LEEDS:** ★ **Mrs Warren's Profession:** Helen Cotterill and Janine Wood in welcome revival of S.J.'s once-banned drama. Phoenix Theatre, Cavendish Street (0532 442111). Mon and Tues 7pm. Wed-Sat 7.30, £3-23.

★ **MANCHESTER:** ★ **Clayton's Aunt:** Rupert Farley plays the much-chased aunt in the immortal farce. Regal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street (01 229 9577). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £3.50-23.

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★ **NOTTINGHAM:** ★ **Clayton's Aunt:** Rupert Farley plays the much-chased aunt in the immortal farce. Regal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street (01 229 9577). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £3.50-23.

★ **PLYMOUTH:** ★ **Clayton's Aunt:** Rupert Farley plays the much-chased aunt in the immortal farce. Regal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street (01 229 9577). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £3.50-23.

★ **ROCHESTER:** ★ **Clayton's Aunt:** Rupert Farley plays the much-chased aunt in the immortal farce. Regal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street (01 229 9577). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £3.50-23.

★ **SHEFFIELD:** ★ **Clayton's Aunt:** Rupert Farley plays the much-chased aunt in the immortal farce. Regal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street (01 229 9577). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £3.50-23.

★ **STOCKPORT:** ★ **Clayton's Aunt:** Rupert Farley plays the much-chased aunt in the immortal farce. Regal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street (01 229 9577). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £3.50-23.

★ **SWANSEA:** ★ **Clayton's Aunt:** Rupert Farley plays the much-chased aunt in the immortal farce. Regal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street (01 229 9577). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £3.50-23.

★ **TORQUAY:** ★ **Clayton's Aunt:** Rupert Farley plays the much-chased aunt in the immortal farce. Regal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street (01 229 9577). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £3.50-23.

★ **TRURO:** ★ **Clayton's Aunt:** Rupert Farley plays the much-chased aunt in the immortal farce. Regal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street (01 229 9577). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £3.50-23.

★ **WALSLEY:** ★ **Clayton's Aunt:** Rupert Farley plays the much-chased aunt in the immortal farce. Regal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street (01 229 9577). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £3.50-23.

★ **WARRINGTON:** ★ **Clayton's Aunt:** Rupert Farley plays the much-chased aunt in the immortal farce. Regal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street (01 229 9577). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £3.50-23.

★ **WIDNES:** ★ **Clayton's Aunt:** Rupert Farley plays the much-chased aunt in the immortal farce. Regal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street (01 229 9577). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £3.50-23.

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★ **LITTLE DORRIT** (U): Worthy and painstaking Dickens adaptation in two three-hour parts with newcomer Sarah Pickering as the daughter born in a debtor's prison. Doris, Jacob as the troubled hero, and a lengthy cast of nobles. Written, edited, designed and directed by Christine Edzard (180 min). 21 Canon West End (01-439 4805). Progs: Part one: Fri, Sat, Tues and Thurs 2.30; Fri, Mon and Wed 7.30. Part two: Mon and Wed 2.30; Sat, Sun, Tues and Thurs 7.30.

★ **MANON DES SOURCES** (PG): Ten years after the death of Jean de Floride, his 16-year-old daughter still haunts the hills overlooking the farm stolen from her father by Soubeyran, played by Yves Montand (120 min). Canon West End (01-449 3737). Progs: 1.15, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.

★ **NO WAY OUT** (15): Polished version of a film noir classic, *The Big Clock*, with a new Persinger setting and a new extra twist. Game Hackman plays the Defence Secretary with a crime to cover up; Kevin Costner is the huckster, investigator, Roger Donaldson directs (114 min). Odeon Leicester Square (01-831 6111). Progs: 12.45, 3.15, 5.45, 8.25, 11.15.

★ **PREDATOR** (18): Arnold Schwarzenegger action spectacular, featuring lots of blood, laser beams, and a very slight moral conscience. Schwarzenegger plays the leader of a military rescue in the jungle. Directed by John McTiernan (107 min). 21 Canon West End (01-449 3737). Progs: 1.15, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.

★ **SAMMY AND ROSIE GET LAD** (18): Another trip through our harsh urban jungle, previously explored by director Stephen Frears and writer Hanif Kureishi in *My Beautiful Laundrette*. With Ayub Khan Din, Shashi Kapoor (101 min). Progs: 2.15, 4.25, 6.40, 8.55, 11.15. Gate Notch Hill (01-221 0220). Progs: 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00, 11.15.

★ **WISH YOU WERE HERE** (15): David Lauder's poignant comedy about a teenage girl's sexual adventures in a drab seaside town. Marvellous playing by Emily Lloyd (82 min). Canon Chelsea (01-352 5050). Progs: 2.00, 6.20, 9.00. Canon Edgware Road (01-723 5901). Progs: 2.25, 4.30, 6.30, 8.40. Canon Epsom (01-377 0757). Progs: 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00, 11.15.

★ **CRY FREEDOM** (PG): Richard Attenborough's bumper bundle of exciting spectacle and liberal sentiments; with Kevin Kline as journalist Donald Woods, drawn into the case of South African activist Steve Biko (Denzel Washington) (158 min). 21 Canon West End (01-449 3737). Progs: 1.15, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 11.15.

★ **FATAL ATTRACTION** (18): A spurned lover (Glenn Close) takes revenge on Michael Douglas, his wife (Anne Archer) and family. Adrian Lyne directs this unsettling thriller (119 min). Camden Plaza (01-485 2443). Progs: 1.30, 3.50, 6.15, 8.40. Canon Baker Street (01-935 9772). Progs: 2.30, 5.25, 8.20, 11.15.

★ **JEAN DE FLORETTE** (PG): Absorbing, beautifully acted version of Marcel Pagnol's novel about Provincial life in the 1920s; with Yves Montand, Daniel Auteuil and Gérard Philipeau. Claude Berri directs (121 min). Canon Chelsea (01-352 5050). Progs: 2.00, 6.20, 9.00. Canon Epsom (01-377 0757). Progs: 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00, 11.15.

★ **THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK** (18): Jack Nicholson's satanic stranger dominates this bumpy adaptation of John Updike's clever novel about the battle of the sexes. With Susan Sarandon, Cher, Michelle Pfeiffer. George Miller directs (118 min). 21 Canon West End (01-449 3737). Progs: 2.15, 4.30, 6.45, 8.55, 11.15.

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Music and word of mouth

The poet Adrian Mitchell and trombonist Amie Whitehead (above) are among the main attractions at the Apples & Snakes Jazz Poetry Festival, a three-day event opening tonight in Covent Garden. Once described by John Berger as "a cannibal feast on mercury", Mitchell tops the bill tonight in the company of blues pianist Beattie Mitchell. He is neatly contrasted with the witty double act Jung and Parker, whose jazz/blues routines won much acclaim at last year's Edinburgh Fringe. Amie Whitehead takes to the stage tomorrow in a quartet including saxophonist Louise Elliot

and guitarist John Parricelli. On Sunday it is the turn of the wonderfully eccentric Lol Coxhill, saxophonist and *Bushman* star. He appears with "sound poet" Bob Cobbing, who has worked with the Bow Gamelan Ensemble and John Cage. The festival was launched last year by the poetry promoters, Apples & Snakes, as a way of exploring the links between the oral tradition and popular music. It heralds the start of a new season of Friday poetry events. Covent Garden Community Centre, 46 Earlham Street, London WC2 (01-690 9368), 8pm, £3.50.

Latin, roots and salsa for which she is renowned. Garden Centre, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton (0273 685861) 7.30pm, £3-4.50.

CONCERTS

★ **MAT WEISS CLASSICS:** Edward Downes conducts the LPO in an all-Prokofiev programme - Symphony No 1 "Classical", War and Peace Suite, Lieutenant Kije Suite and Christopher Palmer's orchestration of the D major Flute Sonata (soloist, Jonathan Snowden). Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, 01-928 8800), 7.30-9.10pm, £4.75.

★ **TIPPETT PLUS:** Nicholas Cleobury conducts the Halle Orchestra in Berlioz's *Le Corsaire* and Tippet's *Concerto for Violin and Piano*. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, 01-928 8800), 7.30-9.10pm, £4.75.

★ **REVISSED WALKS:** Shiva Novie, the European music group, give the world premiere of the revised version of Justin Connolly's *Waka*, and Nareh Sohar's *Poems of Tagore* No 2.

★ **THOMSON/SNO:** Robert Cohen solos in Dvorak's *Cello Concerto*; Thomas Wilson's *Towards the Light* is followed by Richard Sherrin's *Death and Transfiguration*. Brydon Thomson conducts. Lytham Hall, Lytham Road, Edinburgh (01 228 1155, 01-228 5756), 7.30pm, £2.50-29.50.

★ **SARASTE/SCO:** Stuart Burrows (tenor) sings Mozart operatic arias with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, but Jukka-Pekka Saraste conducts them in Alban Berg's *Lulu* and Beethoven's *Symphony No 7*. Muziek Hall, Union Street, Aberdeen (0224 641122), 7.30pm, £3-29.50.

★ **TOMMY SMITH:** The Scottish sax player, still only 20, is a remarkably mature player. Queen's Hall, Glasgow, Edinburgh (01 688 2019), 9.30pm, £4.50.

★ **DISTRICT SIX:** With a joyous LP *To Be Free* recently released, the township band is joined by South

African pianist Chris McGregor. The much-loved jazz funk band Sketch provide support. 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London W1 (01-935 2141), 7.30pm, £2.50-25.

★ **CASADES/COLLINS:** Jean-Claude Casadesu conducts the BBC Philharmonic in Mozart's *Symphony No 32*, Milhaud's *Three Little Songs*, and Casadesu's *Concerto for Violin and Piano* (soloist, Jonathan Snowden). Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, 01-928 8800), 7.30-9.10pm, £4.75.

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BBC1

- 6.00** *Ceej*. AM.
- 6.30** *Leon Errol in Wrong Romance* (TV). 6.55 *Weather*.
- 7.00** *Breakfast Time* includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15.
- 8.30** *Lavender Hill*. American comedy series. 8.55 *Regional news and weather*.
- 9.00** *News and weather* followed by *Open Air*. Edmund Holmes receives viewers' comments on yesterday's television programmes. To participate ring 061-514 0424. 9.30 *Kilroy*. Robert Kilroy-Gibbs chairs a discussion on why some fat people have given up fighting the flab.
- 10.00** *News and weather* followed by *Going for Gold* (r). 10.25 *Children's BBC*. Andy Crane with programme news and birthday greetings, followed by *Play School* and *The Wombles* (r).
- 10.55** *Five to Eleven*. Edmund Pegg with a reading. 11.00 *News and weather* followed by *Open Air*. News and weather followed by *Daytime Live*. 12.55 *Regional news and weather*.
- 1.00** *One O'Clock News* with Michael Bruce. 1.30 *Neighbours*. Daphne's health is causing concern.
- 1.50** *Film: Plymouth Adventure* (1952) starring Spencer Tracy and Gene Tierney. Romantic drama about the 96-day voyage of the *Mayflower* in 1620 from Plymouth to Cape Cod. With Van Johnson and Leo Gerny. Directed by John Brown.
- 2.30** *Ask Margo*. Citizens' rights advice from Margo MacDonald. 3.40 *Cartoon*.
- 3.50** *Comments* on people's questions answered by Sophie Aldred and Simon Davies. 4.10 *SuperTed* (r). 4.15 *Jackanory*. Christopher Guard with part five of *John Walton's Gaffer Simpson's Luck* (r).

BBC2

- 9.00** *Ceej*. AM.
- 9.30** *Daytime on Two*: living on a low income in Scotland. 9.52 *Picasso* featuring 10.15 *Work on a Portland* hill farm contrasted with that of an arable farm on the coast of Angus. 10.38 *Information technology series* 11.00 *Science* 11.15 *Wondermaths* 11.25 *The* played by water in travel through the ages in Scotland. 12.00 *Strike Play*, a drama based on an actual strike in Eastwood, the mining community in which D.H. Lawrence grew up, in 1912. 12.35 *Young offenders* are asked their views on the aim and effect of punishment. 1.05 *France and the French*. 1.30 *Two programmes for the young*. 1.50 *Waters*. 2.00 *News and weather* followed by a series for four- and five-year-olds.
- 2.15** *Sport on Friday* introduced by David Iken. *International Snooker*: quarter-final action in the Benson and Hedges Masters; *Crickets*: highlights of the first day's play in the match at Sydney between Australia and England; *Football*: a preview of Saturday's fourth round of the FA Cup; *Stirling World Cup action*. Includes news and weather at 3.00.
- 3.50** *News*, regional news and weather.
- 4.00** *Catchword*. Word game.
- 4.30** *International Snooker*. Further quarter-final action in the Benson and Hedges Masters. The commentators at the Wembley Conference Centre are Ted Lowe, Jack Kameh and Clive Everton.
- 5.30** *Food and Drink* includes a mushroom hunt in an Italian forest; advice on choosing the best olive oil; and the recipe for the perfect salt beef sandwich (r).
- 6.00** *Corrick Holmes Faces Death* (1943, b/w) starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. The master sleuth is asked by Dr Watson to investigate the murder of the head of Musgrave House. As he investigates Holmes discovers as many bodies as clues and puts his own life at risk. Directed by Roy William Neil.



Jean-Pierre Cassel: BBC2, 11.15pm

- 7.05** *Crickets*. The Bicentennial Test. Richie Benaud introduces highlights of the first day's play in the game at Sydney between Australia and England.
- 7.30** *Scene Plays: Nobody Here* known by Ray Jenkins. The story of a Belfast boy, sent to London to escape the "troubles" in his home city (r).
- 8.00** *The Friday Report*. Funds of the world. *World Watch* investigates disaster funds - who decides who gets what and on what the recipients spend the money.
- 8.30** *Samuel Beckett* presented by Geoff Hamilton and Anne Swithbank from Barnsley. Advice on propagation and the advantages of heating coldframes and greenhouses are featured. Plus, how to attract birds into the garden.
- 9.00** *The Tracey Ullman Show* with Julie Kavner, Dan Castellaneta, Joe Malone and Sam McMurray.
- 9.25** *Anna Karenina* (see Choice).
- 10.25** *Newsnight* 11.10 *Weather*.
- 11.15** *Film: The Vanishing* (1972, b/w) starring Jean-Pierre Cassel as an ex-convict French army corporal who is determined to reach his home in occupied France by any means available. Directed by Jean Renoir. (In French with English subtitles) Ends at 1.05am.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00** TV-am begins with cartoons and comedy series followed at 7.00 with *Good Morning Britain* introduced by Richard Keys.
- 7.30** *Good Morning Australia* presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris. *Good Morning Britain* continues with Richard Keys.
- 8.25** *Thames news*.
- 9.30** *Give Us a Clue*. Celebrity mime game presented by Michael Parkinson. 10.00 *Santa Barbara*. 10.25 *News headlines*.
- 10.30** *The Time*. Nick Owen chairs a discussion on father's rights. 11.10 *Rainbow*. Learning with puppets (r). 1.45 *Thames news headlines*.
- 11.30** *New Way of Living*. Jenni Mills meets two women who are realising their potential after educational courses - Jill George, in computer programming, and Yashu Amiani who teaches Indian cooking (r). 12.00 *News*. Music and chat show presented by Vince Hill and Suzi Quatro.
- 12.30** *News with Julia Somerville*. 12.50 *Thames news*. 1.00 *Chain Letters*.
- 1.30** *Film: Tennessee's Partner* (1955) starring John Payne and Ronald Reagan. Western adventure about a pioneer in a California gold rush town in the 1860s. With Richard Fleming and Coleen Gray. Directed by Allan Dwan.
- 3.00** *Gene*. Drama series about London's rag trade. 3.25 *Thames news headlines*. 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*.
- 4.00** *The Raggy Dots* (r). 4.10 *Gene*. Drama series about London's rag trade. 4.15 *Thames news headlines*. 4.25 *Sons and Daughters*.
- 4.55** *News with Fiona Armstrong*. 5.00 *The 6 O'Clock Show* presented by Michael Aspel.
- 7.00** *The Price is Right*. Game show.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.30** *Schools*: coping with sadness. 9.42 *The Fable*, a film designed to stimulate creative work. 9.50 *Changes in shopping habits* brought on by the introduction of supermarkets. 10.21 *Buying and saving energy* in the home. 10.43 *A profile of Cairo*. 11.05 *Chancellor and the Fox*, a Chaucer tale adapted by the Medieval Players. 11.22 *How different animals keep themselves clean*. 11.41 *Uses of computers*.
- 12.00** *Business Daily*. Financial and business news presented by Mark Rogers.
- 12.30** *Abra Cadabra*. This third programme of the 13-part series designed to bring fun into learning deals with the human brain (r).
- 1.00** *On Course*. Open College trainers' magazine programme.
- 2.00** *The Parliament Programme*. This fourth of six programmes examines the role of the wine merchant (r). (Oracle)
- 2.30** *The Wine Programme* presented by Janis Robinson. This fourth of six programmes examines the role of the wine merchant (r). (Oracle)
- 3.00** *The Wine Programme* presented by Janis Robinson. This fourth of six programmes examines the role of the wine merchant (r). (Oracle)
- 3.30** *Time to Remember*. 1938 when the storm clouds gathered over Europe and Neville Chamberlain returned from Munich with his famous "peace in our time" statement (r).
- 4.00** *Mavis on 4*. Mavis Nicholson, in her regular review of the month's news, is joined by journalists. 4.15 *The Advertiser*. 4.30 *News*. 4.45 *News*. 4.55 *News*. 5.00 *News*. 5.15 *News*. 5.30 *News*. 5.45 *News*. 6.00 *News*. 6.15 *News*. 6.30 *News*. 6.45 *News*. 7.00 *News*. 7.15 *News*. 7.30 *News*. 7.45 *News*. 8.00 *News*. 8.15 *News*. 8.30 *News*. 8.45 *News*. 9.00 *News*. 9.15 *News*. 9.30 *News*. 9.45 *News*. 10.00 *News*. 10.15 *News*. 10.30 *News*. 10.45 *News*. 11.00 *News*. 11.15 *News*. 11.30 *News*. 11.45 *News*. 12.00 *News*. 12.15 *News*. 12.30 *News*. 12.45 *News*. 1.00 *News*. 1.15 *News*. 1.30 *News*. 1.45 *News*. 2.00 *News*. 2.15 *News*. 2.30 *News*. 2.45 *News*. 3.00 *News*. 3.15 *News*. 3.30 *News*. 3.45 *News*. 4.00 *News*. 4.15 *News*. 4.30 *News*. 4.45 *News*. 5.00 *News*. 5.15 *News*. 5.30 *News*. 5.45 *News*. 6.00 *News*. 6.15 *News*. 6.30 *News*. 6.45 *News*. 7.00 *News*. 7.15 *News*. 7.30 *News*. 7.45 *News*. 8.00 *News*. 8.15 *News*. 8.30 *News*. 8.45 *News*. 9.00 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Commons sketch
Robyn foils the Sheriff — again

her Centre

150-1000

Dee forecasts £7.2m decline in yearly profits to £185m

By Alison Eadie

Dee Corporation, the Gateway supermarkets group fighting a £2 billion bid from the much smaller Barker & Dobson, has forecast it will make pretax profits of £185 million in the year to the end of April, a fall from £192.2 million last year.

Gateway is forecast to make trading profits of £170 million, an 11.2 per cent rise over the previous year and a second half improvement of 23 per cent.

Mr Alec Monk, Dee's chairman, repeated his advice to shareholders that the B&D bid was inadequate in form and amount. He said: "All the

indications are that Dee's management has adopted the right strategy in building the company into a leading retailer."

Dee's appeal to the Takeover Panel that the B&D offer failed to comply with the takeover code's provisions about sufficiency of information was rejected by a full meeting of the panel. Dee's complaint arose from the highly leveraged nature of the bid and its contention that B&D would necessarily be in breach of its loan agreement once the bid became unconditional.

The panel said it was satisfied

that B&D had made available all the information needed to comply with the code. It stressed that its decision should not be used by either side as supporting its case.

Dee's forecast was much in line with analysts' expectations and its shares closed unchanged at 200p yesterday.

Mr Ray Green, of Kleinwort Benson which is advising B&D, pointed out that Dee's forecast mentioned profits "in the order of £185 million" instead of using the more common wording of "not less than." He also said there was

no indication of the level of property profits.

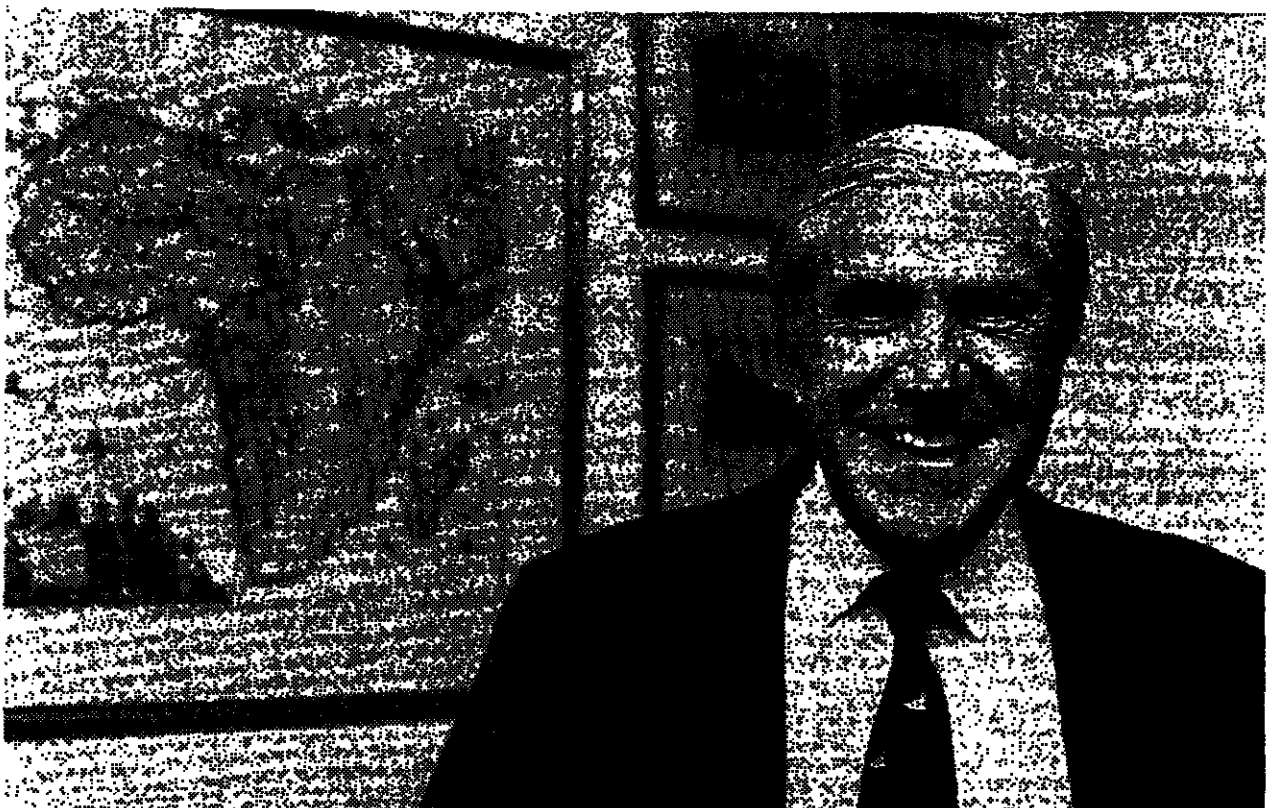
Property profits in the first half were £300,000 compared with £1.3 million in the previous first half. The programme of selling smaller stores is largely over, so property profits are not expected to be a significant part of Dee's profits this year.

Dee forecast that Gateway's trading margin would increase to at least 4.6 per cent in the full year and to 5.6 per cent in the second half. It also said it would recommend a final dividend of not less than 5.5p against 5.0p, giving a total of 8.5p against 8.0p.

The £185 million profit figure was arrived at after substantially higher interest charges resulting from heavy investment in new stores and despite a "major shortfall" in profits from the level budgeted for at Herman's, the American sporting goods chain.

Herman's made £5.5 million trading losses in the first half. The second half is traditionally the much stronger period.

Earnings per share were forecast to fall this year to 15p from 17.7p, due to a higher tax charge.



£1,000m available for immediate expansion: Lonrho's Tiny Rowland yesterday (Photograph by Ros Drinkwater)

Lonrho's profits soar above £200m

By Colin Campbell

Lonrho, the international trading group with 800 companies worldwide and headed by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, saw pretax profits pass the £200 million mark in the year-ended September — a 21 per cent rise on the previous £165.1 million result. It had cash and unused facilities exceeding £1 billion.

The group is raising the final dividend from 7p to 8p a share, making a total of 13p compared with an adjusted 10.9p, and proposes a one-for-six bonus issue.

Lonrho shares rose by 11p to 262p, helped by additional boardroom remarks that Lonrho is "soundly based and looks forward to further progress."

The pretax profit of £200.2 million was achieved on a 14 per cent increase in turnover to £3 billion. The group says now that all loss-makers have been eliminated there was a good performance from all Lonrho interests.

Lonrho discloses an extraordinary profit of £43.6 million net, which includes a profit of £71.1 million and a

loss of £4.3 million on the disposals of Metropole Casino Group and News (UK) Ltd.

Mr Rowland says "Lonrho's unused banking facilities and strong cash position give us immediately available funds in excess of £1,000 million to support further expansion without recourse to share issues."

Times, page 24

Jourdan severs its links with Quant

By Cliff Feltham

Thomas Jourdan, the conglomerate, is severing its long links with Miss Mary Quant, the Sixties fashion queen, and moving into the less glamorous do it yourself sector.

The unscrambling of the complex cross-holdings with Quant which founded its fortunes on the Quant name — to concentrate on building up its consumer products business which include electric trouser presses, prams and fireplaces.

Miss Quant — who has effectively bought back control of the use of her name — is collecting about £700,000 in shares as part of the deal. This involves unwinding the arrangement whereby Thomas Jourdan holds 44 per cent of Mary Quant Holdings — which licenses all the fashion products — and which in turn owns an 18 per cent stake in Thomas Jourdan.

However, Jourdan will continue to collect royalties from the sale of Quant cosmetics, tights and footwear.

Thomas Jourdan is paying £5.78 million for Unerman, a supplier of furniture fittings, lighting and fasteners to DIY stores. Unerman is part of Macdonald, the paint maker which is controlled by Kemira, the Finnish group. The deal will give Macpherson a 21 per cent stake in Thomas Jourdan.

AMI Healthcare plans SE quote

By Alexandra Jackson

AMI Healthcare, controller of London's leading private hospital, the Harley Street Clinic, is planning to raise up to £50 million and obtain a full listing for its shares on the London Stock Exchange, valuing the group at up to £150 million. Impact day is understood to be Tuesday, February 9.

AMI Healthcare is the wholly-owned subsidiary of the US healthcare group, American Medical International. The parent company will retain a controlling interest following the issue of between 25 and 35 per cent of AMI's equity through an offer for sale. However, any split between new and existing

shares has not been decided.

In the year to August 1987, AMI healthcare reported a turnover of £94.1 million and operating profits of £16.8 million. In the last five years, sales have progressed steadily from a level of £38.6 million.

AMI Healthcare controls 13 acute care hospitals in Britain, of which eight are newly-built. It also owns three psychiatric hospitals and operates private health screening and occupational health schemes.

SG Warburg, the merchant banker, is sponsoring the offer for sale, while Warburg Securities, its securities arm, is broker to the issue.

Lack of wisdom at Salomon

Staff from the London office of Salomon Brothers, the American investment bank, who lost their jobs in the first flurry of post-crash sackings — when, according to legend, individuals were publicly summoned to the personnel department over the Tannoy — might be interested to learn that recruitment activities have been continuing on the Oxbridge milk round. But, as in the US, where graduate applications for Wall Street are said to be declining, it seems Salomon is finding difficulty even in attracting sufficient interviewees. According to sources close to the Oxford University Appointments Committee, where Salomon was interviewed on Wednesday, the vacancy notice had to be repeatedly re-advertised despite assurances that "slimming down in some areas of the bank is not affecting this year's need for good applicants or future prospects," and the promise of a salary "at the upper part of the investment banks' bracket, which means high." Adding just the faintest tinge of desperation to the affair, the notice even went as far as to say that latecomers could take their applications along to a pre-interview presentation on Tuesday. "It certainly is true that graduates are less interested in working in the City," admits Salomon. "But we have a man down there hounding them and we had a fantastic response — perhaps as a result of all our adverts."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Losing streak at Caz

Last year certainly was not Cazenove's year, and, if the early season is anything to go by, 1988 does not look like being much better. Putting the Guinness ramblings aside, I was reminded yesterday that Caz also backed the wrong runner in the Sears-Freemans takeover battle. Caz had, for some time, been joint brokers

to Sears, alongside Kleinwort Greaves. But when Sears launched its ultimately successful — but fiercely contested — bid for the mail order group, Caz was obliged to choose between the two and plumped for Freemans. Unhappily, it has managed to lose itself two lucrative clients in one fell swoop.

Firm seats

Despite a fall in trading volumes since the October stock market crash, the price of seats on the New York Stock Exchange has held remarkably firm. Indicating, perhaps, that the slowdown is deemed to be temporary, a seat has, I hear, just changed hands for \$625,000, exactly the same price paid for the previous



"I'd like to be a financial journalist but could never afford the fees"

Pigman to the gentry

Even though Richard Martin, aged 55, chief executive designate of Allied Lyons, is being brought across from the company's brewery division, where he has been chairman and chief executive, he also knows a thing or two about food. During his national service with the Royal Artillery, he was dispatched to the Canal zone and, shortly afterwards, made "pig officer" by his commanding officer. Despite his protestations that he knew nothing about the creatures, he was charged with the all-important responsibility of rearing the regimental pigs. On the birth of the first litter, he was advised by a fellow country-born soldier to wrap the piglets in straw, to keep them warm. But while such precautions might be necessary in deepest Yorkshire, in Egypt they overheated and promptly expired. The second litter was reared with greater success and, Martin assures me, fed the entire regiment that Christmas. The experience has, however, left its mark on him for life. One of his still unfulfilled ambitions is, he says, to write a book about food, describing how to select the best produce rather than a collection of recipes.

● The prize for this month's most helpful piece of stock market analysis must surely go to the banking team at Warburg, which, in its latest commentary on the banking and financial services sector, says: "BZW will lose money in 1987, but there is a perception that it lost it successfully."

Carol Leonard

COMMENT David Brewerton

Price is too high for an easy night's sleep

A total of 15,000 shareholders in trusts managed by Ivory & Sime are having their investments restructured, but not only because one powerful investor in one trust is threatening to cut up rough.

It is tempting to see the proposed reconstruction of Atlantic Assets Trust, Edinburgh American Trust and Japan Assets Trust as a direct response to the 29 per cent stake in Japan Assets taken by Anglo & Overseas Investment Trust.

Anglo, a Morgan Grenfell trust, certainly did pick up its Japan Assets stake with the intention of forcing changes. The age-old game of cashing in on the discount to net assets at which investment trust shares stand in the market has lost none of its appeal. Anglo & Overseas has to be convinced that the restructure of £300 million of assets will unlock the discount before it will go with the Ivory & Sime proposals.

The novel feature of the scheme is that a new investment trust, Selective Assets Trust, will be set up which will be geared with, wait for it, an Equities Index Loan Stock. The idea is that the new loan stock will have both its income and ultimate redemption value, 25 years from now, linked to the FTA All-Share Index.

Holders of the stock will sleep easy at night, content in the knowledge that at least one part of their portfolio will not underperform the index. The linking will mirror the index exactly, whereas the so-called index funds normally suffer performance dilution because of fees and expenses.

But unless the fund managers at Ivory & Sime can make the Selective Assets Trust portfolio outperform the FTA All-Share, the equity of the trust will be putting in a very dismal performance, having to sacrifice itself to satisfy the demands of the Equities Index Loan Stock.

Doubtless at some point during the stock's quarter-century life the trust will

find the index-linking too demanding and ask for another reconstruction. The plan, which involves the creation of two other investment vehicles and a host of mix and match options is an academic solution to a practical problem. As such, it is unlikely to work.

Counting the cost

Argyll Group was more amused than Guinness when Guinness's lawyer David Oliver mentioned the legal action which Argyll has promised and the "£3 billion" sum likely to be involved.

Nevertheless, Argyll suffered severe financial damage from the costs of the abortive bid and is keen to restore the hole torn in the balance sheet.

If the Court backs the Takeover Panel judgement that Guinness entered into a concert party then Argyll, as a substantial holder of Distillers shares, will also be due for an extra payment.

Finally, Argyll may also consider it is also due for damages or compensation arising from its failure to win control of Distillers. However, even the most optimistic Argyll supporters are pushed to see how any claim could be even a tenth of the £3 billion.

The most obvious legal ground would be the common law tort of conspiracy. However, the lawyers involved in both the Guinness and Argyll camps will undoubtedly be only too aware of the case of Lornho-v-Shell Petroleum.

The case reached the House of Lords in 1981 and imposed a narrow definition of what counts as an actionable conspiracy. The Lords ruled unanimously that the scope of the tort of conspiracy was restricted to the situation where two or more people deliberately conspire to damage another person or body. It does not cover situations where the purpose of the conspirators is to protect their own commercial interests.

Arco in surprise switch

While BP flexes its corporate and financial muscle to bid for Britoil and while Britoil tries to persuade British Gas to enter the fray as a new saviour, the original white knight could be about to gallop off into the Californian sunset with a UK independent oil company in its saddlebag which has cost it absolutely nothing.

Arco, which originally supported Britoil against BP and built up a 24 per cent stake in the Glasgow company at an average price of 389.5p, has now spent £25 million buying a 14.6 per cent stake in Tricentrol for 180p a share.

Its purchase puts a far higher price on Tricentrol than the revised offer of 160p a share made yesterday by the French oil major, Elf. Arco now has a holding in Tricentrol about twice the size of that

which Elf has been able to build in the market. If Arco were to follow through with a full bid for Tricentrol, it might end up paying about £180 million for the company compared with the £148 million now being offered by Elf.

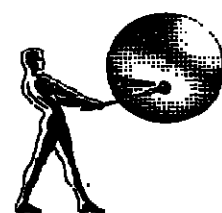
Arco is sitting on a profit of at least £134 million from its Britoil purchases and if British Gas is to emerge as a white knight for Britoil, it would have to make Arco an offer which would probably give it a profit on its Britoil purchases which would match that £180 million price-tag on Tricentrol. Therefore, while the Chancellor polishes his golden share in Britoil, but does little else with it, Arco could end up holding one of the dwindling number of UK independent oil companies born out of the North Sea oil boom of the 70s. And it will have bought it for free.

The Rank Organisation 1987 Results

	1987	Increase on 1986
Profit before tax	£208.3m	+27%
Earnings per share	58.2p	+28%
Ordinary dividend	21.75p	+21%

The abridged profit and loss account for the year ended 31st October 1987 is an extract from the Report & Accounts which will be filed with the Registrar of Companies upon which the auditors have given an unqualified report.

Another year of progress



The 1987 Report & Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 18th February 1988. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary, The Rank Organisation Plc, 6 Cornmarket Place, London W2 2EZ.

Shares will end year lower, BZW forecasts

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange will end 1988 lower than they started, Mr Peter Thompson and his influential market strategy team at BZW forecast in their annual long-term study of equities and gilt-edged.

There is a better chance of achieving a positive real rate by investing in long-dated gilt-edged, thanks to the income. "They are generally the better investment in bear markets but liquid investments like Treasury Bills usually give the best performance in falling equity markets."

Shares have only shown a negative real return in two successive years six times since the Second World War, after allowing for inflation and dividends. On the four occasions since 1953, the study finds, gilt-edged fared better than equities but still lost money, after allowing for income and inflation. Each time, Treasury Bills showed a better return for non-taxpayers such as pension funds and only made a real loss in 1972-74 when inflation was rising fast.

The BZW study, which has built an impressive following for its long-term strategic judgements, compares the total returns on investment in British shares and gilt-edged shares since 1918. It forecast last year that the long bull market was ending.

The study shows that over long periods, equities have always provided the best returns, averaging 7.3 per cent a year before tax since 1918 and 3 per cent after paying personal tax at the highest rate.

But gilt-edged and liquid investments have often performed better over short periods. Those who invest in shares at the peak of bull markets, such as July 1987, usually take three or four years to break even in real terms. Even funds not paying tax took 11 years to recoup their money if they invested in 1972 (due to high inflation for the following decade). Otherwise, investors buying shares at any time after the war showed an overall profit before tax after four years.

Mr Thompson, who forecast the break in the market at its peak in July, states: "We foresee a year or two of poorer performance, but both the previous growth periods (1920-36 and 1952-68) had some setbacks and it is possible that we are less than halfway through a period of long-term equity growth."

Despite the October crash, British equities have shown an outstanding 18.3 per cent annual real rate of return over

the six years to the end of 1987. Gilt-edged also showed historically outstanding average returns of 12.4 per cent gross (including income).

Investors in equities would have done no better by investing in leading stock markets abroad, with the exception of Tokyo. But BZW gives warning that overseas investors in Tokyo have tended to underperform the market by investing in companies with names well-known outside Japan.

But the BZW study says even the long bull market from 1974 to 1987 was no better for shares than the pre-war boom until the short-lived gain of almost 50 per cent in share prices in the first seven months of 1987 - virtually wiped out after the crash.

BZW gives warning that the extent and timing of the fall in share prices in 1987 was remarkably similar to that of the Wall Street crash in 1929.

"This does not mean that we are heading for a re-run of the inter-war slump but we are forecasting a slowdown in world growth in late 1988 and 1989," they say. This, together with the psychological effect of the crash, provides the possible background for a switch from bull to bear market conditions. "As the recession develops, we would expect investors to become increasingly nervous."

Mr Thompson and his strategists reach no conclusion on the outlook for long-dated gilt-edged. This, says the study, will be heavily influenced by US long bonds, which will in turn be determined by American measures to correct the trade and budget deficits.

World equity markets, with the possible exception of Japan, have now made their adjustment to the overvaluation at the top of the bull market.

"Major bear markets do not automatically follow from the end of bull markets. They are caused by worldwide economic and political shocks."

But BZW says there will have to be big adjustments in the US economy, possibly under a new president. Without an (unlikely) agreement on what needs to be done, the adjustments, when they come, will, therefore, probably exert deflationary pressures on economic activity in the world.

"While we are not forecasting a severe world slump," BZW concludes, "it looks likely that world stock markets will be much more pessimistic on the subject a year from now, and that, therefore, world equity markets will be materially lower at the end of 1988 than at the beginning."

Nissan UK to boost sales of British Bluebirds to 40,000

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry Correspondent

Nissan UK, the privately owned vehicle importer, has agreed to sell 40,000 British-built Bluebird models in the United Kingdom this year from the planned production of 47,000. British registrations of Bluebirds in 1988 will be double the combined sales in all the Continental European markets.

Mr Octav Botnar, aged 73, chairman of Nissan UK, which has sole rights to sell Nissan cars and vans in Britain, revealed yesterday that he had agreed to pay slightly more for the Sunderland-assembled cars to speed up the increase to two-shift working last autumn.

It had previously been agreed with Nissan that British cars would cost the same as Japanese-built vehicles.

Nissan UK sold 31,982 Bluebirds in 1987, more than 24,000 coming from the British factory in its first full year of production. Overall sales increased only marginally from 110,000 to 114,000 last year but Mr Botnar says that after a three-year restructuring of the dealer network it is now ready to increase sales substantially for the first time in 10 years. Registrations in 1988 are planned to rise to 134,000.

Nissan UK is able to secure a maximum market share of 5.7 per cent under the gentleman's agreement between the British and Japanese car industries which limits total Japanese imports to 11 per cent of the market.



Heading along the road to higher sales: the Nissan Bluebird and Mr Octav Botnar, chairman of Nissan UK

The company has struggled to sell enough cars in previous years to protect this large share of the imports.

"It is our requirement to protect the quota because of the investment in this country," Mr Botnar said. However, there will be a fundamental change in strategy for the 450 dealers this year. There will be no pre-registering of new cars to boost market share and no additional bonuses from Nissan UK.

The equipment level of the Bluebird has already been improved considerably and other models will follow the policy of returning to the superior equipment levels

seen in Japanese cars when first imported in the 1970s.

Nissan UK continues to be extremely profitable, despite buying all its imported vehicles in yen. Profits in 1987 rose by 42 per cent from £70.68 million to £100 million and are expected to climb to £120 million this year. Profits of £47 million came from distribution of new cars and parts, the rest from Nissan Finance and dealers financed by Nissan UK. Turnover increased by 30 per cent from £670.5 million to £858.5 million.

Nissan UK's 80 direct dealers sold about 30 per cent of all new Nissan cars in Britain last year and a further 25 per cent

were marketed through 30 dealers operating under the Nissan Retail division.

As part of a £150 million investment in the dealer network, the retail chain is to be expanded to at least 65 under the name AFG. These will be concentrated in major city centres where land costs now approach £1 million for a dealer and establishing new showrooms is uneconomic for most private concerns.

Nissan UK is faced with continuing to expand the dealer network rapidly to keep pace with the rising output from Sunderland while also defending its quota of 115,000 cars a year. By 1993 when Sunderland is building

200,000 Bluebirds and Micras, British sales could rise to more than 200,000, giving Nissan UK a market share of more than 10 per cent.

To fund this programme Nissan UK will next week borrow £540 million from a group of international banks.

There has been widespread speculation that Nissan will buy Nissan UK from Mr Botnar so that it has direct control of distribution in its biggest European market.

As profits continue to climb, putting the value of Nissan UK above £1 billion, and investment is stepped up, the prospect of a buyout looks less likely.

Fisheries profits go over £5m

Associated Fisheries, the cold store and food trading group, has lifted pretax profits from £4.1 million to £5.6 million in the year to September 30. However, £1.1 million worth of the increase is attributable to a rise in investment income to £2.6 million.

Turnover increased from £97 million to £103 million and the company is paying a final dividend of 4p, which makes a total of 5p compared with 4p last year.

Profits after tax have been boosted by a tax credit of £1.4 million which lifts the total profit to £7.1 million - against £3.1 million. Moreover, the company has decided, in the light of its future capital expenditure, to reduce the provision in its balance sheet for deferred taxation by £3.1 million.

Earnings per share - ignoring the release of the deferred tax - were 22.53p against 17.63p. If the deferred tax release is included, earnings shoot up to 40.42p.

Bigger payout

Heavitts Brewery, which runs a tied estate of public houses in the West Country, reports pretax profits of just over £1 million for last year, a rise on the £907,000 made the year before. Sales rose from £5 million to £5.3 million. Shareholders collect a final dividend of 10p, making a total of 12.4p, compared with 11p.

Sales increase

Rothmans International's sales (net of excise and sales taxes) for the nine months to December 31 reached £330.6 million (£185.8 million), against £193.4 million. Earnings from tobacco operations were £20.9 million (£14 million). Investment income, after tax, was \$3.8 million (nil) and earnings from discontinued operations were nil (\$7.6 million).

Revenue down

The Independent Investment Company is reporting for the half-year to December 31 with comparisons adjusted. Pretax revenue fell to £375,000 (£394,000). Earnings per share were 0.20p (0.54p). Net assets per ordinary share slipped to 51.76p (75.46p).

Gallaher up

Gallaher, a subsidiary of American Brands, reports increased turnover of £3,886.7 million (£3,404.7 million) for 1987. Pretax profit rose to £169.7 million (£117.4 million). There is an extraordinary debit of £5.5 million (nil).

BTS Group

An unchanged interim dividend of 1.3p is being paid by the BTS Group for the six months to September 30. Turnover expanded to £4.98 million (£4.11 million), while pretax profit was almost level at £107,000 (£106,000). Earnings per share were 1.36p (1.34p).

Profit jump

Martin Shelton is paying an interim dividend of 0.5p (nil) for the six months to September 30. Turnover rose to £857,000 (£685,000), while pretax profit reached £63,000 (£11,000). Earnings per share were 0.84p (0.16p). The board looks forward to another successful year.

JSB purchase

JSB Electrical has agreed to acquire Mannin Circuits for £386,718 in cash. Mannin designs and manufactures printed circuit boards, in the Isle of Man, for a wide range of industries.

No dividend

No dividend (nil) is being paid by Yelverton Investments for the year ended October 31. Pretax operating profit fell to £211,000 (£349,000). Earnings per share were 1.12p (2.8p).

LIT cash call aims to raise £21.5m

By Alison Eadie

London Investment Trust, which provides clearing and broking services on the commodity and financial futures and options markets in Chicago and London, is raising a net £21.5 million via a one-for-one rights issue.

The money will provide additional working capital to help LIT meet requirements in the Financial Services Act. It will also help the company expand its services to institutional clients and provide funds for acquisitions.

Mr Paul Dupee, who became chairman last July after acquiring a 20.1 per cent stake, has resigned from the board and sold the majority of his shareholding. His departure was amicable and not dictated by financial need, Mr Michael

Middlemas, the chief executive said. Mr Dupee never intended to be a long-term holder and would have needed to invest substantially more in the business to maintain his holding, Mr Middlemas said.

Mr Dupee's shares have been sold to Globe Investment Trust, which will have a 10 per cent stake after the rights issue. Mr John Botts takes over as chairman.

LIT published interim pretax profits to end-September of £2.6 million against £2.4 million in the previous first half. It registered a net trading loss in October of £1.75 million, because of customer defaults after the market crash. November and December trading returned to profitability.

Germany predicts 2% growth

By Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

The West German government is forecasting growth of 1½-2 per cent in the economy this year. This is slightly more optimistic than the consensus of independent forecasters who predict between 1 per cent and 1½ per cent.

The government's official forecast, published yesterday, predicts inflation will continue at about 1 per cent and the trade surplus will fall by a relatively modest DM5 billion-9 billion from its 1987 level of DM115 billion.

The main source of demand in the economy is expected to be consumer spending which will grow much faster than national income.

Exporters of wool textiles expect near-record year

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The wool textiles industry, Britain's sixth largest exporter, is expecting 1987 to prove its second-best year for penetrating foreign markets.

This is good news for Yorkshire, where about 70 per cent of the industry is based. Most of the rest is in Scotland, Lancashire, the West Country and Northern Ireland.

Exports filtered in October, dropping 5 per cent on annual comparison because of a poorer performance by raw and combed wool, but in November exports of all wool textiles jumped 13.7 per cent in value.

That means exports of wool textiles rose by 6.9 per cent in the first 11 months of 1987 compared with the same period of the previous year. The 1987 11-month total of £543.4 million points to a full-year performance exceeding the £556 million of 1986, the Confederation of British Wool Textiles said. But 1987 is expected to fall short of the record £607 million in exports achieved in 1985.

Raw and combed wool ex-

ports, which had been running at about a fifth up in value earlier in the year, are still showing the best increases in the 11-month period.

Raw wool was up 13.3 per cent in volume and 18.9 per cent in value at £78.1 million. Combed wool and hair, known in the trade as tops, gained 10.6 per cent in volume and, at £84.7 million, was up 18.9 per cent in value.

However, the rate of growth in these products has eased because of rising prices and currency changes.

Exports of cloth, including the fine worsted, cashmeres and mohair for which the industry is best known, were worth £192.2 million, a 3.7 per cent increase, even though volume was down 5.9 per cent.

Yarn exports held up in volume but the value tumbled 3.2 per cent to £93.4 million. Other products going abroad were 9.2 per cent up in value to £95 million.

Exports to EEC countries rose 3.8 per cent in value to £145.9 million.

Finance men charged

Hong Kong (Reuter) - Two former directors of a failed finance company were extradited from New York on Wednesday and charged here yesterday with false accounting.

Mr Chan Wai-king, aged 36, and Mr Tang Yee-chun, aged 48, directors of the America and Panama Finance Company, appeared in court on 45 charges of false accounting and one of making false statements, court officials said.

No plea was made. They were arrested in New York last March and brought back after an application for extradition by Britain on Hong Kong's behalf.

The Crown Colony's authorities said the two men were involved with scheming between 1980 and 1983 to steal money from the company. About 100 depositors lost between HK\$23 million and HK\$31 million.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES		RIGHTS ISSUES	
Ald Restaurants	60 +4	St. Portland N/P	212
Asa-Henriques 71hp	72 -1	Gr West 8% N/P	
Car & Fuel 2/P	78 +33	Sherpe & Law N/P	6
Carroll Phoenix (120p)	146 +2	Verson N/P	7
City Growth (100p)	108	(Issue price in brackets).	
Eurotunnel	240		
Eurotunnel Writs	141		
Freightland	63		
Fidelity London	88 +1		
Hard Rock Cafe	116 +1		
Do 'A'	73 +2		
Hatfield Est (100p)	112		
How Group	70 -1		
ISA Int (80p)	113		
Kunick	371		
Lloyd Thompson (170p)	153		
Mowat	38 +1		
Nestor-UNA (75p)	88 +2		
Power Corp	105 +2		
Record (80p)	61 +3		
Sec Archives	160		
Shelfbury (180p)	141 +1		
Shorrock	122 +2		
Stevens-Pickavant	119		
TGL (130p)	131		
Tomorrow Leisure	31		
Tubular Exhib	22		

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	8.50%
BCCI	8.50%
Consolidated Crds	8.50%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co	8.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	8.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	8.50%
Clubbank NA	8.50%

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey	2,194	Costs	1,422
Ald-Lyons	1,317	CU	1,131
Amsted	2,370	Corn Gold	1,520
ASDA	7,003	Coolson	470
AB Foods	5,818	Courtside	4,170
Anglo	3,388	Delcity	1,170
BAA	5,823	Doe	7,285
BET	3,017	Dixons	3,832
BTR	3,404	ECC	730
BAT	3,587	Enterprise	2,100
Bardays	1,451	Ferranti	3,199
Bass	1,154	Fisons	2,235
Beecham	2,287	Gen Gas	418
Beech	2,832	Gen	8,864
BICC	730	Glaxo	2,619
Blue Arrow	2,735	Globe	751
Blue Circle	1,490	Granada	4,424
BSC	971	Grand Met	3,882
Bupa	3,745	GUS 'A'	983
BP	1,881	GUS 'B'	616
Br Arco	2,210	GRN	1,413
Br Airways	4,719	Guinness	3,359
Br Comm	1,328	Hamm 'A'	704
Br Gas	5,412	Hanson	7,235
Br Petrol	11,298	Hawker	587
Br Telecom	735	Hawley	235
British	384	Hickson	1,828
Bund	322	Hickson	1,828
Burmah	1,963	ICI	3,420
Consolidated Crds	3,158	Jaguar	1,888
Co-operative Bank	3,420	Ladbrokes	1,817
C. Hoare & Co	3,420	Ladbrokes	1,817
Hong Kong & Shanghai	3,420	Ladbrokes	1,817
Lloyds Bank	3,420	Ladbrokes	1,817
Nat Westminster	3,420	Ladbrokes	1,817
Royal Bank of Scotland	3,420	Ladbrokes	1,817
TSB	3,420	Ladbrokes	1,817
Clubbank NA	3,420	Ladbrokes	1,817

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealings	For Settlement
January 18	January 29	April 21	May 3
Call options were taken up by 28/1/88	Call options were taken up by 28/1/88	Call options were taken up by 28/1/88	Call options were taken up by 28/1/88
Call & Put	Call & Put	Call & Put	Call & Put

"OUR WORK WILL BEAR FRUIT FOR YEARS TO COME"

For 40 years the seeds of success have been spreading in Aycliffe and Peterlee.

Since April 1947 some 18,000 new homes have been built, and a healthy environment for commercial and industrial growth has been established, with many thousands of jobs being created.

Since 1973 alone, the efforts of the Aycliffe and Peterlee Development Corporation have resulted in the building of over 5 million square feet of superbly designed units to meet the needs of today's industries.

Our efforts to attract national and international investment to Aycliffe and Peterlee have borne fruit, and it is no coincidence that over a third of the towns' industrial employees work for companies of foreign origin.

Now, we're handing over the challenge to Helical Bar plc, with future prospects for growth and new jobs blossoming. A quarter of Aycliffe and Peterlee companies are expecting to take on employees during 1988.

You can read the full story of our achievements in our history, written by Garry Philipson (available in bookshops from April).

It's a crop of which we feel justifiably proud.

SIR MICHAEL STRAKER
CHAIRMAN

**AYCLIFFE
PETERLEE**
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

THE AYCLIFFE AND PETERLEE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, NEWTON AYCLIFFE, CO. DURHAM DL5 6AW. TELEPHONE (0325) 312521.

Dear Shareholder,

Your Company has had a highly successful year in all respects and this is reflected in the results I am able to present to you. Profit before tax has increased to a record £200.2 million and earnings per share are up at 30.1 pence on an increased share capital.

The Group balance sheet is strong with shareholders' funds substantially up at £924 million and cash balances at the year end of £313 million. The book value of the Group's assets is considerably below their real worth, and this is one of the reasons for the Lonrho share price reaching record highs during the year. Your Company's businesses are at varying stages of maturity and there is growth throughout the Group. Lonrho's unused banking facilities and strong cash position give us immediately available funds in excess of one thousand million pounds to support further expansion without recourse to share issues.

Many companies contribute to the prosperity of the Group. However, there have been some significant changes this year which I will mention in particular.

In October 1986 Lonrho entered into partnership with Mr Robert O Anderson, the creator of Atlantic Richfield, by acquiring six hundred producing oil and



gas fields in the USA through the Hondo Oil & Gas Company, which we jointly own. Hondo has made a healthy profit under the experienced leadership of Mr Anderson and has been further expanded since the year end by merger with the Californian based Pauley Petroleum Company, listed on the American Stock Exchange.

In February 1987 we bought out our partner in Western Platinum. This year's output was 258,000 ounces of platinum group metals, from very extensive ore reserves. From mid 1989 we expect to mill an additional million tonnes each year, on the way to doubling production.

In April 1987 Ruhrglas AG, which is the largest manufacturer of table glass in West Germany and the fourth largest supplier of container glass, joined the Lonrho Group. Ruhrglas is a very old company which nevertheless is highly automated. Shareholders may judge the scale of production by the sales, last year, of over a billion individual pieces.

Early in the year the Directors decided to put your company into a strong liquid position, which is reflected in the balance sheet.

A substantial amount of money has been realised through the disposal of group assets. In June 1987 we were approached with an offer for the United Kingdom casino interests of £128 million. The sale was concluded in July. Simultaneously Lonrho agreed to sell News (UK) to News International for £33 million.

Further funds came through the successful listing of 20 million shares on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. The offer was fully subscribed and will provide us with a presence in the Far East from which we can expand. I should also like to welcome our new Japanese shareholders. We also raised a further £60 million through a 4.5% convertible bond in August.

Sterling has appreciated this year against all the currencies of the countries in which the Group operates. Despite this our overseas subsidiaries, and particularly those in Africa, have generally traded well. Precious metal prices have been favourable, bringing increased contributions from the Group's mining companies.

There are 124,000 people working for Lonrho throughout the world. One of them was my oldest and best friend, Alan Ball, who this year gave up his brave struggle with illness. He was a Director of Lonrho since 1951, and Chairman for many years. We miss him. He did so much for Lonrho.

Lord Duncan-Sandys died in November. He honoured our Company by serving as Chairman for twelve years, and later as President. He was a marvellous colleague who was always interested and active on the Company's behalf.

Foremost among the capable and kind, George Cappendell made his entire career in the Ashanti Goldfield. He died in the Spring of last year. He was honoured by the Ghana Government and, with unique distinction, appointed to a Chieftom. Shareholders will share the Board's feeling that we are lucky in enjoying the company and the abilities of men like George Cappendell.

I know you would wish to join the Board in thanking all the many people who are employed by Lonrho for their initiative and hard work which have contributed to the strength of the Company. Lonrho is soundly based and looks forward to further progress, and this year's results justify an increased dividend and a one for six bonus issue.

Yours sincerely,
Tony Rowland



Shaft headgear — Athens gold mine, Zimbabwe.

Lonrho's results justify an increased dividend and a one for six bonus issue

R W Rowland, Chief Executive

The following is taken from the Review of Operations for the year ended 30 September 1987:

MINING AND REFINING

Our mining division had a very successful and profitable year as a result of increased production, firmer precious metal prices and well controlled operating costs.

We have increased the production of platinum group metals for the tenth successive year to 258,000 ounces and remain the lowest cost producer in the industry.

Group gold production also increased substantially to 442,000 ounces. Output from our Zimbabwean mines reached another all time high but the largest gain came from Ashanti.

Small-scale production began at the Erfedeel mine and output is planned to increase rapidly over the next few years to a level of over 400,000 ounces a year. We hold a 36% interest in this important investment with most of the balance held by the Anglo-American group of companies.

Coal sales also reached a record level of 3.5 million tonnes but profits were affected by lower dollar prices. The Group also produces asbestos and anthracite.

A joint venture with the Government of Zambia to promote the mining and marketing of amethysts was agreed this year.

AGRICULTURE

Lonrho is Africa's largest food producing company. Ranching and crop cultivation are spread over a million and a half acres. The total herd is 125 thousand head.

The results of the Group's seven sugar estates were, once again, at record levels with significant contributions from Swaziland and Mauritius. Total Group production was approximately half a million tonnes.

The overall profitability of the Malawi estates was improved. The East African Tanning Extract Company in Kenya performed well.

In Malawi, tea yields were down due to below average rainfall and tea prices also fell throughout the year. 5 million kilos were produced.

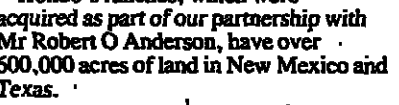
In Mozambique the Group, in partnership with Government, now employs over 3,000 people on its four estates growing food for local markets. Cotton lint was exported for the first time.

The Group's tea estates in Tanzania were expanded during the year by the acquisition of the Luponde Tea Estates.

Kalanga Estates in Zambia improved the yields and performance of its dairy herd and obtained exceptionally good results from livestock and irrigated crops.

The Wattle Company in Zimbabwe sold its coffee crop early in the year which yielded high prices.

Hondo's ranches, which were acquired as part of our partnership with Mr Robert O Anderson, have over 600,000 acres of land in New Mexico and Texas.



Tomatoes being sprayed — Chilembene Estates, Mozambique.

Princess Tower — Bahamas.

HOTELS AND CASINOS

The results of the Princess Group were considerably improved compared to last year. All hotels in Bahamas, Bermuda and Mexico reported increased occupancy and room rates.

In the Bahamas, increases in occupancy in our hotel and in other hotels on Grand Bahama benefited the casino results.



Toyota Stand, Nairobi Agricultural Show — Kenya.

In Uganda, under a cotton barter deal, trucks, tractors and implements were sold to the Government of Uganda.

Lonrho continues to be one of the largest distributors of motor vehicles in Africa with agencies for Mercedes Benz,

Planning permission has been obtained for a major new extension to the London Metropole with conference facilities.

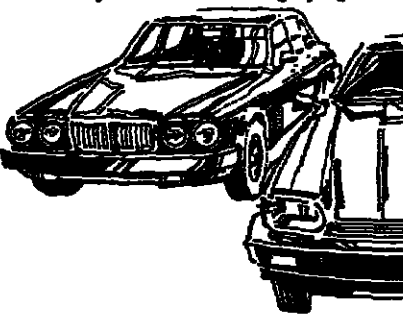
The Metropole Hotel Group continues to be the leading exhibition and conference group in the country.

In Kenya the tourist industry had a boom year and all our hotels achieved record occupancy. In particular, the Mount Kenya Safari Club achieved a year round occupancy rate in excess of 85% and the Ark Lodge in excess of 81%.

MOTOR DISTRIBUTION

V-A-G (UK)'s performance is an all time record in terms of sales and pre-tax profit exceeding last year's record levels. They sold 120,000 units, remaining

A selection of Dutton-Forsshaw's range of Jaguar cars.



1987 AT A GLANCE

	1987	1986
Turnover	£3,014m	£2,651m
Profit before tax	£200.2m	£165.1m
Profit attributable to shareholders	£104.2m	£76.5m
Earnings per share	30.1p	23.2p
Dividends per share	13.0p	10.9p
Cash balances	£313m	£220m

Earnings and dividends per share for 1986 have been adjusted for the capitalisation issue in 1987. The seventy-ninth Annual General Meeting of Lonrho Plc will be held at the Great Room, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, W.1. on Friday, 25th March, 1988 at 11.30 a.m.



The Mount Kenya Safari Club — Kenya.

in volume terms the number one importer of European cars into the United Kingdom.

Dutton-Forsshaw Motors now has a healthy spread of franchises with dependence on any one particular franchise having been considerably reduced.

Jack Barclay, in their Diamond Jubilee Year, re-confirmed their pre-eminence as the world's largest and most prestigious Rolls Royce dealer.

The results of Dutton-Forsshaw Machinery have improved substantially despite the continuing recession in the agricultural machinery industry.

SEAT Concessionaires (UK) continued to expand as the fastest growing new car franchise in the United Kingdom. Vehicle sales in the year increased by no less than 57.7% compared to 1986.

The Motor Mart Group in Kenya sold over 3,000 units in the year with Toyota and Massey Ferguson tractors achieving 20% and 41% of their respective markets.



Hand engraving bank note plates — Harrison's, High Wycombe.

Within the daily and weekly newspaper markets, the £22.5 million Outram development will give the Glasgow Herald and the Evening Times the benefits of the most modern production equipment in Europe.

The highlight of a year of high activity at Harrison & Son was the construction of their new high security area which will open up the new and exciting currency market.

Greenaway-Harrison is expanding into other areas of business.

Harrison Decorative Papers' second year's trading has continued to show most encouraging results.

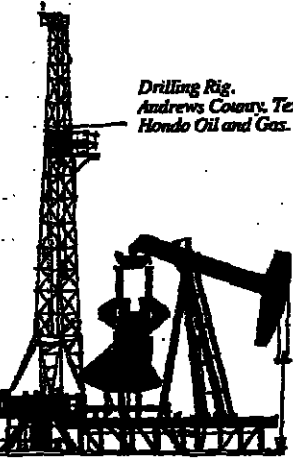
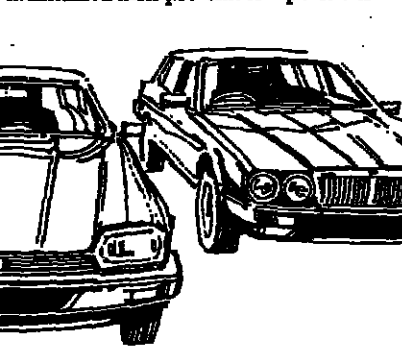
Mitsubishi, Toyota, Peugeot, Audi, Volkswagen, Massey Ferguson, General Motors, Rover Group and several other manufacturers.

PRINTING AND PUBLISHING

The significant circulation gains achieved by The Observer last year were consolidated.

Printing of The Observer at the St Andrew's Hill plant ceased in March and a more economic system of contract printing involving five regional printing centres began.

In Scotland, both George Outram and Scottish and Universal Newspapers maintained their pre-eminent positions



OIL AND GAS

Hondo Oil & Gas, our joint venture with Mr Robert O Anderson, has traded profitably in its first year. Hondo has interests in petroleum leases totalling nearly one million acres.

Since its start up in 1987 Hondo has produced in excess of 2 million barrels of oil and 10 billion cubic feet of gas from its 600 producing fields. It has also participated in more than 30 new wells, all of which have proved to be successful.

Hondo has recently merged with the publicly listed Pauley Petroleum. This will leave Lonrho's joint venture with an 80% interest in the merged company, which will continue to be listed on the American Stock Exchange.

ENGINEERING

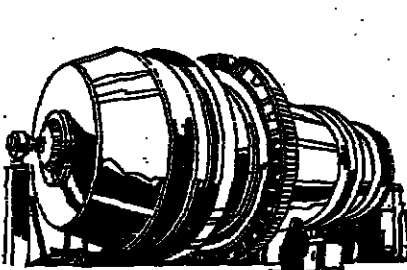
The Firststeel Group has enjoyed another successful year with profits much improved over those in 1986.

All the companies within the Steel Division experienced buoyant trading conditions with Firststeel Metal Products achieving another record year.

Within the Engineering Division, Charles Roberts Engineering is now showing positive results with a good order book established for next year. Following a major reorganisation within the Newell Dumford Group, the company will move into the new trading year with a vastly improved order book.

Ruhrglas manufactures glass containers and tableware for local sale and export, over one billion items of which are sold annually.

W Dalmer and Co in Zimbabwe had a very good year with sales of AVM trucks and AVM buses.



Mixer drum in latex — Newell Dumford.

In Zambia, the President of the Republic opened the cotton ginny in Mumbwa which was completed by the Group's construction company, Delkins.

WINES AND SPIRITS

In France, the reputation of the Group's classified wines continues to rise in response to our insistence on the highest standards of viticulture and equipment, giving an increase in the value of our vineyards over the years.



A range of blended and malt Scotch whiskeys from Whyte & Mackay — Scotland.

Despite intense competition, sales of Whyte & Mackay Whisky have significantly increased in the year.

The Company has integrated the ten brands acquired in May 1986 into its operations and advances have been made on sales of all the key brands.

Whyte & Mackay is the second largest brand owning Company in the United Kingdom Scotch Whisky market.

In Malawi the Group's four breweries had a good year producing over 50 million litres of beer. Elsewhere the Group continues to operate a further 19 breweries in partnership with African governments and municipalities.

In Zambia the Coca-Cola bottling company has been affected by restrictions on imported concentrate.

TEXTILES

At Lonrho Textiles new designs and products were introduced into all ranges. Brentfords have opened ten shops and upgraded eight more. Accord has had a good year, with sales rising dramatically. Demand from retail groups for 'Own Brand' products has increased tremendously. The company started a £36 million programme of re-equipment of the factory in the year.

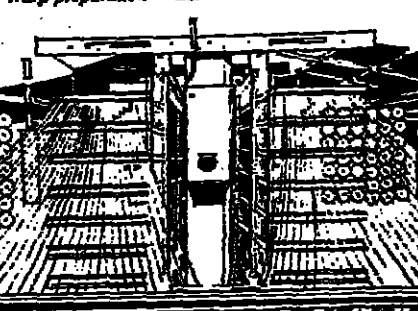
Consolidated Textiles, the leading Zimbabwe blanket manufacturer, was acquired by the Group in partnership with Zanu (PF) in the latter half of the year.

David Whitehead Textiles (Zimbabwe) had another good year and has now established itself in the world's textile market as a reliable and high quality textile manufacturer.

David Whitehead Malawi substantially improved profitability in the year and better prices were obtained from exports.

The Group's new cotton ginny at Mumbwa in Zambia had a successful year gaining 10,000 tonnes of seed.

Warp preparation — Lonrho Textiles.



FREIGHT

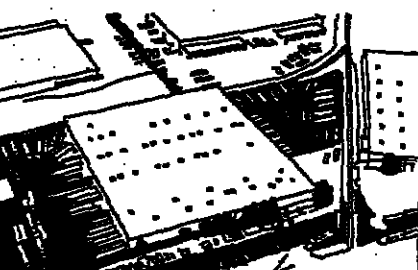
Kühne & Nagel's overall performance in 1987 was good, although it was affected by the continuing devaluation of the US Dollar and a general decrease in margins in the industry.

The Kühne & Nagel Western Hemisphere Group performed extremely well. Having established new offices in four cities during the year, the Kühne & Nagel Organisation in the United States is now represented in 26 cities.

Domestic Air-cargo activities have also increased.

The Kühne & Nagel Air Express Service was also initiated in Europe in April 1987 and is progressing well.

In the Far East Kühne & Nagel is showing an above-average growth and



Kühne & Nagel — Los Angeles.

results in most of the countries in South East Asia are excellent.

FINANCE AND GENERAL TRADE

Baumann-Hinde, the Group's cotton merchandising company, again traded well during a period when world cotton prices staged a dramatic recovery from previous levels.

The R.J.H. Group further established itself as the leader in the distribution of kitchen and bathroom equipment with turnover at £55 million.

The Group's insurance division, F E Wright, has continued its steady progress during the year, with the London operations being most successful.

Kühne & Nagel's London insurance broking activities were restructured and centralised through the Wright Nacora joint venture.

A programme of selective purchases by the Group's property companies has continued and attractive commercial shop and office complexes have been acquired.

The acquisition of the freehold of Lonrho's headquarters, situated in a prime location in Cheapside, has great potential. The freehold premises at 45 Park Lane were sold in July at a considerable profit.

Lonrho represents substantial American aircraft manufacturers including Beechcraft and Boeing, in a number of countries in Africa.

Turman Zambia played an important role in successfully fulfilling their obligations to the Zambian mining industry.



Tokyo Listing

The text is taken from the Chief Executive's Statement and Review of Operations contained in the Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September, 1987 which will be published in late February. Copies will be available from the Secretary, Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6BL.

LONRHO

Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6BL

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Share	Gain or Loss
1	Redwood Hg	Building Roads	
2	Plenty (sa)	Electronics	
3	Ramsey Group	Drugs/Chem	
4	Unitech	Electronics	
5	Stora	Chemicals/Pulp	
6	Tilbury Group	Building Roads	
7	Leicester	Motor/Aircraft	
8	Card (A) & Son	Property	
9	Jardine Math	Industries E-K	
10	Wimpey (Group)	Building Roads	
11	Telephone Rm	Electronics	
12	Dela	Industries A-D	
13	Apicom Computers	Electronics	
14	Kickstart Broom	Bank/Discount	
15	Tate & Lyle (sa)	Food	
16	Amey (sa)	Drugs/Chem	
17	Adley (sa)	Drugs/Chem	
18	Leisure (sa)	Drugs/Chem	
19	Anglo S	Building Roads	
20	Roll-Royce (sa)	Motor/Aircraft	
21	Centon 'A'	Drugs/Chem	
22	Unilever (sa)	Industries S-Z	
23	Armstrong	Motor/Aircraft	
24	Yale & Valer	Industries S-Z	
25	Clyde	Oil/Gas	
26	Bellway	Building Roads	
27	Jack (Wm)	Motor/Aircraft	
28	Fraser	Oil/Gas	
29	St. James & S	Building Roads	
30	St. James (sa)	Bank/Discount	
31	British Gas (sa)	Oil/Gas	
32	Lox Ltd	Industries L-R	
33	Syle	Shoe/Leather	
34	On & Counties	Property	
35	Lox Securities	Property	
36	Boots (sa)	Industries A-D	
37	Tanner (sa)	Building Roads	
38	Nash Ltd	Industries L-R	
39	Sovdang	Oil/Gas	
40	Wellcome (sa)	Industries S-Z	
41	Radiant (Gt Bridge)	Industries L-R	
42	Pico	Electronics	
43	James	Electronics	
44	Unilever (sa)	Food	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

100p

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	Share	Gain or Loss
1	100p	
2	100p	
3	100p	
4	100p	
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Share	Gain or Loss
1	100p	
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7	100p	
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50	100p	

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Share	Gain or Loss
1	100p	
2	100p	
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UNDATED

Company	Share	Gain or Loss
1	100p	
2	100p	
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INDEX-LINKED

Company	Share	Gain or Loss
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Company	Share	Gain or Loss
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Best levels held

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end February 5. Contango day February 8. Settlement day February 15. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 25.)

No.	Company	Share	Gain or Loss
1	Redwood Hg	Building Roads	
2	Plenty (sa)	Electronics	
3	Ramsey Group	Drugs/Chem	
4	Unitech	Electronics	
5	Stora	Chemicals/Pulp	
6	Tilbury Group	Building Roads	
7	Leicester	Motor/Aircraft	
8	Card (A) & Son	Property	
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15	Tate & Lyle (sa)	Food	
16	Amey (sa)	Drugs/Chem	
17	Adley (sa)	Drugs/Chem	
18	Leisure (sa)	Drugs/Chem	
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24	Yale & Valer	Industries S-Z	
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37	Tanner (sa)	Building Roads	
38	Nash Ltd	Industries L-R	
39	Sovdang	Oil/Gas	
40	Wellcome (sa)	Industries S-Z	
41	Radiant (Gt Bridge)	Industries L-R	
42	Pico	Electronics	
43	James	Electronics	
44	Unilever (sa)	Food	

Portfolio Gold

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

40.00-50.00	6556	LONDON MEAT FUTURES (Pigs)		MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION	
43.00-53.00	6558	LONDON GRAIN FUTURES		Average livestock prices at representative markets on January 28	
May 219.5-19.0	Dec 212.5-12.0	Live Pig Contract			
Aug 213.0-12.6	Mar 214.0-10.0	Feb	Open: Close	(Pig/lb)	Pig Sides
		Mar	Grnc. 67.00		104.00
		Apr	unq. 61.00		
		May	unq. 61.00		
		Jun	unq. 60.00		
		Jul	unq. 60.00		
		Aug	unq. 60.00		
		Sep	unq. 60.00		
		Oct	unq. 60.00		
		Nov	unq. 60.00		
		Dec	unq. 60.00		
		Jan	unq. 60.00		
		Feb	unq. 60.00		
		Mar	unq. 60.00		
		Apr	unq. 60.00		
		May	unq. 60.00		
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		Dec	unq. 60.00		
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RACING: GASELEE'S PROMISING CHASER FANCED TO EXTEND RUN AT AYR

Private Views can gain upper hand in battle of young giants

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

With both Private Views and Randolph Place standing their ground for the West of Scotland's Pattern Novices' Chase at Ayr today's feature race can be described rightly as the clash of young giants.

Both have similar impressive records chasing although each began on an indifferent note - Private Views by pulling much too hard for his own good and Randolph Place by falling.

Since then though they have both performed like clockwork and each has won four novice chases in a row.

Gordon Richards, just back from a well-deserved holiday in Antigua, has always thought the world of Randolph Place, so much so that he has even stated publicly that he regards him as a Cheltenham Gold Cup winner in the making.

Two of his four victories this season have been gained on today's course, the others were at Nottingham and Wetherby.

Each time he has made the

occasional mistake but he has had so much class in hand that he has been able to recover and smother inferior opposition.

Whether he will be able to do that this time against Private Views is another matter. I have my doubts. Although there was a question mark over him when he was hurrying, Private Views has taken to jumping fences like the proverbial duck takes to water.

Cheltenham and Newbury have been the courses where he has won and each time he has made all the running and barely touched a twig.

Any horse can do that and look good when opposed by moderate rivals. However, when Private Views scored at Newbury in November he accounted for The West Awake, who was good enough to win the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham's National Hunt Festival last March.

That performance was superior to anything that Randolph Place has achieved. So

Private Views is preferred. A line through The West Awake certainly gives him the beating of Yabis, the other challenger from the south.

Another Schedule (1.45) and Cosmic Flight (2.15), who shared a horsebox with Private Views for the long journey from Upper Lambourn, can also play their part in winning the first two races on the programme.

Honest Toil, my selection for the second division of the Barr Novices' Hurdle, spent a fruitless time at Sandown earlier this month taking on the likes of Away We Go. Today's opposition is not nearly so strong.

Meanwhile, Away We Go will be on parade again at Doncaster where I expect him to trigger off a double for jockey Steve Smith Eccles by winning the Rossington Main Novices' Hurdle.

First Bent is napped to win the Barnby Moor Handicap Chase to complete the second leg.

The fact that this will be his

first race of the season does not deter me at all because research shows that he has won first time out for the past three years. That means he comes to hand easily.

It is my contention that the handicapper has taken a chance by giving only 11st 11lb to First Bout, who has been a pleasing trainer, Nicky Henderson in recent work.

As for Away We Go, his form at Kempton, Ascot and Sandown this season is so superior to that of today's rivals that I find the prospect of defeat impossible to contemplate.

With 20 relatively inexperienced chasers competing, the Wards' Brewery Novices' qualifier promises to be much more open.

Ballyhane and Motivator both have good form over fences, but beware a great roar from members of the Albatross Cricket Club if their mare is in contention. I'm led to believe that she has been jumping like a natural at home recently.

Weekend prospects bright

Despite yesterday's rain over much of the country, prospects for racing at the weekend remain remarkably good.

Clerk of the course Philip Arkwright reports that Cheltenham, tomorrow's principal meeting, has stood up well to the week's downpours.

"It's been raining today but we don't anticipate any problems," Major Arkwright said yesterday evening. "The going is heavy but no inspection is planned."

Doncaster and Ayr, where racing is scheduled to take place both today and tomorrow, report no problems. The going at Doncaster, surprisingly, is only good to soft on the hurdles course and good on the steeplechase course.

The only one of tomorrow's four meetings in doubt is Ffos-y-fôn where clerk of the course David Cameron will hold an inspection at 1pm today.

Cameron said last night: "We had a dry day but it's still started backing down and we will have to have an inspection. More showers are forecast and it looks pretty gloomy."

Wincanton, today's third scheduled meeting, became the 17th casualty of the season when it was abandoned yesterday because of waterlogging.



Kribensis under starter's orders

Exciting hurdling prospect Kribensis is rugged up by his work rider, Jimmy Scott, at Michael Stoute's stable after a damp morning's exercise at Newmarket yesterday (Christopher Goulding writes).

Kribensis, already 14-1 favourite for the Triumph Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival, is expected to make his belated debut over timber at Doncaster tomorrow, after being denied an outing on four occasions because of abandoned meetings.

The grey gelding, who carries the colours of Sheikh Mohammed, will line up for the Brewer's Hurdle. Steve Smith Eccles has the ride.

Both Stoute and Sheikh Mohammed are better known for their exploits on the flat but in the past they have both been associated with National Hunt racing. Stoute has been successful with Steeple Bell while the Sheikh had his colours carried by Irish Glora.

James Fanshawe, Stoute's assistant trainer,

says of Kribensis: "He schools very well. We have been taking him over the hurdles with No Bombs, who was a good horse on his day over the jumps. The lads here have got 33-1 about him winning at Cheltenham."

Kribensis, the winner of two flat races and a third in the King George V Handicap at Royal Ascot, is the only National Hunt prospect among Stoute's 150-strong team. Stoute said of his Triumph Hurdle hope: "We have been up against it with the weather. The horse needs racecourse experience. It is a nice bit of fun for everyone in the yard to have a jumper. I am not planning to get any bigger in National Hunt racing."

Anthony Stroud, Sheikh Mohammed's racing manager, also emphasized: "Kribensis is just a one-off. The Sheikh is not going to have a large string of National Hunt performers. The horse is a gelding and looks to have the right credentials for jumping."

(Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

Run And Skip on way back

Run And Skip, fourth to Dawn Run in the Cheltenham Gold Cup two seasons ago, is back on course for another tilt at steeplechasing's premier prize.

After saddling Nodolotte to win the Racing Post Novices' Chase at Taunton yesterday, John Spearing declared that he had "high hopes" Run And Skip would be ready for the March 17 contest.

Run And Skip missed the whole of last season but ran well on his return behind Kildimo at Cheltenham in November. However, he failed to reproduce that form in the Hennessy Gold Cup and again in a small race at Worcester the following month.

The Alcester trainer hopes to give Run And Skip an outing in the Whitelaw Gold Cup Chase at Ffos-y-fôn tomorrow if the meeting goes ahead.

"I want to find the easiest possible race to bring him back," Spearing said. "I don't really want to pitch him into a handicap with 12 stone."

Spearing was one of the few trainers not worried by yesterday's very heavy going at Taunton. "I had no qualms. Nodolotte likes it and he'll get three miles," Spearing said.

Nodolotte, partnered by Gee Armstrong, jumped superbly and set a pace that his opponents could not match. Random Traveller tried to throw down a challenge turning for home but could not reach Nodolotte, who passed the post 12 lengths clear.

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Deserts him on return to action

Richard Dunwoody, having his first ride since aggravating an old neck injury at Cheltenham on New Year's Day, was immediately in the thick of the action at Taunton yesterday.

In conditions described by nearly all the jockeys as "unroutable", Dunwoody, riding Waterloo Boy, finished second to Out Of Range in the opening EBF Novices' Hurdle Qualifier, but promptly lodged an objection to the winner for "kicking my horse out of its stride."

Waterloo Boy's trainer, David Nicholson, thought he was a bit unlucky. Out Of Range had won on mud and would keep the fourth on Rushmore, who was racing for the first time for 15 months. The jockey reported that the heavy ground found him out after the long lay-off.

The stewards decided to impose no fines on non-runners who were racing for the first time for 15 months. The jockey reported that the heavy ground found him out after the long lay-off.

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DONCASTER

Selections

By Mandarin

- 1.30 Comedy Fair.
2.00 Myoer.
2.30 Away We Go.
3.00 Atrabates.
3.30 FIRST BOUT (nap).
4.00 Fish Quay.

By Michael Seely

3.30 First Bout. 4.00 NIKOLA EVE (nap).

Going: good (chase course); good to soft (hurdles)

1.30 SANDHILL BEAT NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (21,761; 2m 150yd) (9 runners)	
1-0001P HALF BROTHER 8 (S) (P Bonner) Mrs J Phipps 6-11-0	89
2-141-002 BATES 27 (S) (Mrs B Samuel) F Winter 6-11-0	79
3-131222 VULFORD'S CROWN 26 (S) (T Bayley) O Brennan 10-11-0	81
4-0-0222 COMEDY FAIR 13 (S) (J Phipps) Mrs J Phipps 6-11-0	81
5-23224 INDIAN 13 (S) (S) (J Phipps) Mrs J Phipps 6-11-0	81
6-23324 INDIAN 13 (S) (S) (J Phipps) Mrs J Phipps 6-11-0	81
7-23324 INDIAN 13 (S) (S) (J Phipps) Mrs J Phipps 6-11-0	81
8-23324 INDIAN 13 (S) (S) (J Phipps) Mrs J Phipps 6-11-0	81
9-23324 INDIAN 13 (S) (S) (J Phipps) Mrs J Phipps 6-11-0	81

BETTING: 2-1 Comedy Fair, 4-1 Half Brother, 5-1 Vulford's Crown, 6-1 Indian, 8-1 Comedy Fair, 12-1 Nippy Chippy, 20-1 Rodney Bay, 50-1 Robbin.

1987: MEETING ABANDONED - FROST

FORM

HALF BROTHER was a better on latest start. Previous (11-5) best BATES (11-4) at Newbury (2m 150yd) 1986, heavy, Jan 2, 1987.

VULFORD'S CROWN (11-5) 2nd to Comedy Fair (11-4) at Newbury (2m 150yd) 1986, heavy, Jan 2, 1987.

COMEDY FAIR (11-4) 2nd to Comedy Fair (11-4) at Newbury (2m 150yd) 1986, heavy, Jan 2, 1987.

INDIAN (11-5) 2nd to Comedy Fair (11-4) at Newbury (2m 150yd) 1986, heavy, Jan 2, 1987.

COMEDY FAIR (11-4) 2nd to Comedy Fair (11-4) at Newbury (2m 150yd) 1986, heavy, Jan 2, 1987.

COMEDY FAIR (11-4) 2nd to Comedy Fair (11-4) at Newbury (2m 150yd) 1986, heavy, Jan 2, 1987.

COMEDY FAIR (11-4) 2nd to Comedy Fair (11-4) at Newbury (2m 150yd) 1986, heavy, Jan 2, 1987.

COMEDY FAIR (11-4) 2nd to Comedy Fair (11-4) at Newbury (2m 150yd) 1986, heavy, Jan 2, 1987.

COMEDY FAIR (11-4) 2nd to Comedy Fair (11-4) at Newbury (2m 150yd) 1986, heavy, Jan 2, 1987.

COMEDY FAIR (11-4) 2nd to Comedy Fair (11-4) at Newbury (2m 150yd) 1986, heavy, Jan 2, 1987.

COMEDY FAIR (11-4) 2nd to Comedy Fair (11-4) at Newbury (2m 150yd) 1986, heavy, Jan 2, 1987.

COMEDY FAIR (11-4) 2nd to Comedy Fair (11-4) at Newbury (2m 150yd) 1986, heavy, Jan 2, 1987.

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COMEDY FAIR (11-4) 2nd to Comedy Fair (11-4) at Newbury (2m 150yd) 1986, heavy, Jan 2, 1987.

COMEDY FAIR (11-4) 2nd to Comedy Fair (11-4) at Newbury (2m 150yd) 1986, heavy, Jan 2, 1987.

COMEDY FAIR (11-4)

